

THE TIMES

NUM calls delegate conference over receivership order

The NUM executive last night called a special delegate conference in the wake of the Court of Appeal's refusal to lift a receivership order.

The NUM executive has to decide whether to take no action, to continue to ignore the courts, or to recognize the supremacy of the courts.

Mr Herbert Brewer, the solicitor appointed as Receiver by the High Court, flew to Luxembourg to claim £4.3m held in a bank there.

Two striking miners, both of Rhymney, Mid Glamorgan, have been remanded in custody until Thursday at Merthyr Tydfil, charged with murdering Mr David Wilkie, a taxi driver.

Telecom buyers limited to 800 shares

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Continued on back page, col 1

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Maze escaper held after soldier and terrorist die in Ulster gun battle

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A man who had escaped from the Maze jail was held by police in the Irish Republic yesterday, after a soldier and a suspected Provisional IRA terrorist died in a gun battle between an undercover surveillance team and gunmen five miles north of the border with the republic. Police officers in the republic captured two men after a car chase in which a vehicle was hijacked. One of the men detained at Ballyshannon, Donegal, is Seamus Clarke, one of 18 men on the run since breaking out from the Maze prison in Ulster 14 months ago.

A rifle was also recovered from the hijacked car.

The soldier who died was Lance Cpl Alastair Slater, aged 28, single from Leicestershire, who was attached to The Parachute Regiment.

He was part of an Army undercover team operating on isolated roads near Kesh in Co Fermanagh, aimed at trapping terrorists on their way to carry out attacks in Northern Ireland.

According to a police statement, a military patrol encountered armed men and shot and killed one of the men and a soldier died.

The soldiers apparently were waiting in a side road for the terrorists who were driving a blue Toyota van hijacked on Saturday from the border

village of Pettigo, Co Donegal, after a family were held at gunpoint.

Shortly before 1am people living near by were awoken by two shots followed by flames and more gunfire. More flames were followed by a further burst of rapid gunfire.

The terrorist suspects fled into the surrounding countryside under the cover of heavy fog and at daylight Army bomb disposal experts moved in to search the van which proved to be empty.

A wide area surrounding the incident was sealed off and road checkpoints were set up on both sides of the border.

During the search Clarke and another man with republican connections were captured after they failed to stop at a checkpoint on a road near Ballyshannon.

They had hijacked a car and, with the owner still in it, tried to flee from the police who gave chase. The two men were detained after they drove the car into a field and tried to get away on foot.

Seamus Clarke, aged 28, from the Ardoyne area of north Belfast, and the other man are expected to appear at the anti-terrorist special criminal court in Dublin today.

Clarke will eventually face extradition proceedings for his return to the North where he is wanted for escaping from custody. He was one of 18 men still on the run after 38 republicans broke out of the Maze jail in September last year, killing Prisoner Officer James Ferris as they fled.

Clarke was serving a life sentence imposed in 1976 for his part in a gun and bomb attack on the Bayardo Bar in Shankill Road, Belfast, in which five Protestants died.

Before the gun battle Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that unless the political parties in the province could reach a better understanding on ways of restoring peace and stability the terrorists would gain.

"We are dealing with highly sophisticated murderers whose aim is the overthrow of the Government in both Dublin and Belfast. The Provisional IRA in particular is a well organized and ruthless organization with international links."

● The Turkish Ambassador to the Irish Republic, Mr Gundogdu Ustun, was being treated at St Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, last night, for injuries after a shooting incident at his home in the city. The police believe that no one else was involved.

Pym sees change of policies on jobs

By Anthony Bevis
Political Correspondent

Mr Francis Pym, the former Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that the Government would be forced to change its economic policies as a result of mounting backbench pressure for action on unemployment.

He said in an interview on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* programme: "Nothing much has been done at all about unemployment."

"I would like them to give much more emphasis to it, and I believe that you will find that they are going to, because the pressure that exists in the country is of such a kind that I think they will."

Mr Pym said that it was the art of government to work for the greatest degree of harmony and unity. There was a great deal of public support for the Government's policy objectives.

He said: "There are also, and it's rather strong at the moment, waves of dissatisfaction about the way some of it is being carried out."

The former chief whip said: "Under the present leadership, they are so sure that their particular view and their particular point in the spectrum is correct that they are tending to think that everybody else is out of step with them."

He said he believed that there would be "adjustments" of government policy and that they would be brought out in a "sensitive" Budget next spring.



Last minute grooming for Lachlan of Domeside, a Highland steer, at the Royal Smithfield Show which opens today (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Three arrests at cattle show

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Three people were arrested during noisy demonstrations outside Earls Court yesterday during the preview of the Royal Smithfield Show which opens to the public today.

Mark Longden, aged 17, a student of Fosse Road, Newark, was charged with obstruction and will appear at West London Magistrates' Court on December 13. Two other people were arrested for threatening behaviour and obstructing the police.

Between 300 and 400 people stood on the pavement opposite

the main entrance to the hall after a march from Hyde Park, organized by the Vegetarian Society. The protesters claimed that more than 3,000 animals were slaughtered every minute of the working day to satisfy "man's greed" and that at Christmas alone more than 12 million lambs would be killed.

According to Dr Alan Long, a research adviser to the society, meat is "going off in the public's esteem". Butchers and fast-food producers are facing growing objections from the medical profession, conservationists and animal welfare workers.

But inside the hall Mr Keith

Roberts, chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, said that genuine concern about diet and health was being exploited by extremist groups. "The vilification of some foods and meat is not the only victim of extremist propaganda, is damaging to the industry and causes alarm to consumers," he said.

The MLC has decided to devote its entire space at this year's show to presenting facts on the importance of meat in providing necessary proteins, vitamins and minerals. Vegetarians did not provide any answers, Mr Roberts said.

Inter-union battle threat to provincial newspapers

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The National Graphical Association is to press ahead with a controversial programme of deals to switch their members to editorial jobs claimed as the territory of the National Union of Journalists. The new policy by the association's national officers will exacerbate an inter-union dispute at *The News*, Portsmouth, and will bring closer a full scale war between the two organizations throughout the provincial newspaper industry.

The NGA is already seeking the transfer of some of its members to sub-editing duties at the *East Anglian Daily Times* at Ipswich as part of a new technology agreement.

It was the proposed transfer of three association members to the editorial floor at Portsmouth which led to the threat of an all out stoppage at the paper by the NUJ.

In retaliation the national leadership of the NUJ has threatened to sign "direct input" deals bypassing the NGA in other papers.

It is against this background that the Newspaper Society, the employers' body, is attempting to thrash out a national new technology enabling agreement for provincial papers.

Employers are seeking a deal which would allow journalists and advertising staff to type their material via video screens into a computer. The copy would not be handled by NGA compositors, whose jobs are at

most risk through the introduction of direct inputting into a computer, or "single key-stroking" as it is called, wants to follow its typesetting work into editorial and advertising departments, but editorial functions are the sole preserve of the NUJ, journalists argue.

In provincial newspapers progress has been slight. *The Nottingham Evening Post* group and D. C. Thomson of Dundee have achieved direct inputting without the help of national union agreement. But in both cases unions have no formal recognition and the companies are officially boycotted by the labour movement.

Within Newspaper Society newspapers 80 per cent are produced by the photo-composition process. The rest use "hot metal".

Progress towards single key-stroking in non-hot metal houses has been divided into three artificial stages.

Only one newspaper, *The News*, at Portsmouth, has partially introduced phase two, where all reporters and some sub-editors use visual display units. All fingers on the inputting machines still belong to the NGA.

A small group of provincial newspapers is taking the lead on new technology.

The News, Portsmouth: all reporters are using VDUs, but so far only non-NUJ sub editors have been "on screen".

Express and Star, Wolverhampton: management has

given all unions an 18-month deadline for the introduction of single-keying.

East Anglian Daily Times: NGA is seeking a Portsmouth-style deal for a phase-two agreement with association members following the work into the editorial section.

Telegraph & Argus, Bradford: the NGA has offered direct keying from the telephone advertising (tele-ad) department in return for 100 per cent association closed shop. A similar agreement is sought at the *Observer*, West Hertfordshire and Watford services.

Birmingham Post and Evening Mail: reporters are using VDUs and management is keen to introduce subbing on-screen.

The *Evening Post*, Reading: the company is seeking the use of VDUs in the tele-ad department, which is organized by Sogart 82.

Bolton Evening News: the NGA has offered the company a deal which would give them single keyboarding for a trial period of six months.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

The most important and the most controversial legislation in the present session of Parliament will be the Local Government Bill, which begins its long journey today with a second reading debate in the House of Commons. That it will eventually reach the statute book is no certain thing, but it is a question of when it will do so.

The critical question is whether it will provide for any directly elected body to represent London as a whole. The Greater London Council and the metropolitan county councils will be abolished. There is no possibility of a parliamentary majority being mustered to save them and the metropolitan counties seem particularly friendless. The opposition parties are not even promising to reinstate them if there is a change of government.

So the heart of the battle will be over what to do about London's government and what the new body should be. A large majority of Londoners opposed to the Government's plans. It is not surprising, therefore, that many Conservative MPs in the area are either hostile or at least uneasy.

The dissidents are not seeking to preserve the GLC. But they want to replace it with another body that will speak for London, not just for individual boroughs. Sixteen of the potential Conservative rebels met on Thursday, under the chairmanship of Mr Geoffrey Rippon, to consider their tactics.

They face two principal difficulties: how to persuade a sufficient number of members from other parts of the country to join a revolt over the government of London; and how to find a replacement for the GLC, in which they are all agreed.

Resistance to direct elections

There are various possibilities. The most radical would be another directly elected body, though with restricted powers, and probably also members. But there could also be an indirectly elected body, which would amount to giving legislative powers to the London Boroughs Association. Or there could be a parliamentary forum for London, a committee of MPs for the capital analogous to the Scottish Grand Committee.

The Government would regard either the second or third of these options as an acceptable fall-back position. But while a parliamentary forum could certainly speak for London, it would have only the power of publicity and would not be part of the local government structure.

An indirectly elected assembly would suffer neither of those disabilities, but it might lack the legitimacy of a directly elected body and its members might be more inclined to pay regard to the interests of their boroughs than of London as a whole.

A directed elected assembly, however, would be strongly resisted by the Government: it could be made to look uncomfortably like the GLC, under a different name, and there will be a temptation for Conservative dissidents to compromise by supporting one of the other options.

Even if they could agree on their target, they face another tactical difficulty. They will almost certainly not have enough members of their school of thought on the standing committee to amend the Bill so fundamentally at that stage. The critical assault will come when the Bill is reported back to the full House.

Shires' support for rebels needed

The rebels might then achieve their objective if one of a number of different ways. A new clause will be tabled to provide for a directly elected assembly with specified powers. That might be passed.

If, however, it were defeated by only a narrow majority the Government might be induced to accept an amendment providing for the direct election of the projected planning commission for London. Or that proposal might be passed even if the Government objected.

If either of these proposals was defeated by only a fairly narrow majority in the Commons, the rebels might then decide to give the Commons the opportunity for a second thought.

But in present circumstances the Government is the Commons' rebels will need the support of a number of members from the shires who object to over-centralization and to the refusal of ministers to listen to their backbenchers. It is only if there is such broader discontent that there will be any chance of a successful revolt over how London is governed.

Leading article, page 13

Miners and the law: What the future holds

Taxi firm's owner to ferry pitmen

Mr Jeff Tree, owner of the taxi company, one of whose drivers was killed while driving a working miner to his pit, said last night that he would drive three miners to Merthyr Vale colliery today.

At a meeting in Cardiff 50 drivers employed by the company voted unanimously to continue working for the National Coal Board by agreeing if asked to take in working miners.

Mr Tree, aged 41, is making himself available to pick up the miner. Mr David Williams, who was in Mr David Wilkie's taxi when Mr Wilkie, aged 35, was killed on Friday.

Two striking miners were on Saturday remanded in custody until Thursday, accused of murdering Mr Wilkie, when they appeared before Merthyr Tydfil magistrates.

They are Reginald Dean Mannock, aged 21, and Russell Shankland, aged 20, both of Rhymney, Mid Glamorgan. A third man was released on bail.

Mrs Jean Wilkie, aged 60, mother of Mr Wilkie said yesterday her son held strong beliefs for which he had died.

Mrs Janice Reed, who was living with Mr Wilkie, is expecting a child at Christmas. Mr Wilkie leaves two other children, a daughter, Claire, aged 12, and a son, Jason, aged 5.

NUM to decide on purging contempt

The National Union of Mineworkers' executive yesterday faced a stark choice in deciding what action to take after the High Court dismissed its appeal against the appointment of a receiver to take control of its assets.

It could take no action, which would mean the receiver would control its £8.9 million assets, at least until next Thursday when the court reviews the position.

Alternatively, it could decide, for the first time since the strike began, to acknowledge the supremacy of the courts and seek the removal of the receiver by purging its contempt of court.

The former option would be likely to lead to the seizing in Luxembourg of the £4.3 million in the Nobis-Finanz International Bank.

The receiver, Mr Herbert Brewer, a Derbyshire solicitor, would be bound to hand over the money to the four sequestrators from Price Waterhouse.

Cases will test public order law

As the miners' strike makes legal history in the civil courts, the dispute also looks set to be a battleground for an unprecedented test of the most grave public order offences in the criminal courts. (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

The most recent figures show that since the strike began in March 7,100 miners have been charged with criminal offences. Of these 137 have been charged with riot and 309 with unlawful assembly.

Both riot and unlawful assembly, which are common law offences, are used where there is a collective intention to achieve some common purpose by the use or threat of violence to persons or property. They carry unlimited penalties.

Charges of riot in particular are extremely rare. The last successful prosecution was more than 10 years ago.

The Government is expected to have published its long-awaited review of public order by the time the first of these offences comes to trial, sometime in the new year.

Its recommendations are likely to be based on those of the Law Commission report last October, which proposed that statutory offences should replace all the common law public order offences.

The present offence of unlawful assembly was unsatisfactory because it did not distinguish between degrees of criminality.

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It pays to decide Nationwide

Champions of the media

The Association of British Editors is launched today with the aim of promoting and protecting the freedom of the press.

The chairman, David Flynn, deputy executive editor of *The Times*, said: "The association is being formed by senior journalists who believe there is an urgent need for an organization that can speak on behalf of the whole media on matters concerning press freedom. Serious inroads have been made in recent years into press, and public, freedom, despite often great efforts by various organizations and individuals. The Association of British Editors is not intended to replace any of those bodies, but it is certain that further assaults lie in wait for the Press. The media must be able to meet challenges with a united voice."

EEC food surpluses: 1

Doubt over implementing dairy quotas

Farming comes to town today when the annual Royal Smithfield Show opens to the public at Earls Court in London. But the festivities are overshadowed by fears for the future as the EEC finally has to come to terms with the fact that it cannot afford to continue producing far more food than it consumes. In the first of a three-part series *John Young, Agriculture Correspondent*, examines some of the implications.

At the end of last March the European Commission, backed by EEC member governments, made the momentous decision to impose production quotas on dairy farmers. It was a far more drastic measure than anything previously attempted, such as the introduction of sugar quotas, as most milk producers are wholly dependent on it for their livelihoods and, unlike arable farmers, have little opportunity to diversify.

The commission maintains that, confronted with growing mountains of surplus butter, cheese and skimmed milk powder, which it could scarcely give away, let alone sell, it had no other choice. Even now there are still 1,200,000 tonnes of butter and 900,000 tonnes of milk powder in EEC stores, 80 per cent and 50 per cent respectively of the total world surplus.

A few days ago the Commons agriculture committee produced a report which denounced the Government, the farmers'

EEC Milk Quotas

	% production cut required 1984 on 1983	Actual % reduction level to 1985
Belgium	-4.0	-1.05
Denmark	-6.6	-5.32
France	-2.5	-0.85
Germany	-7.8	-3.68
Greece	+10.2	+0.68
Ireland	+1.7	+1.11
Italy	-2.9	-0.57
Luxembourg	+3.7	-3.48
Netherlands	-8.5	-4.36
UK	-8.2	-8.70

Wales and Scotland is nearly 4 per cent below the permissible quota. The question of liability for levy payments therefore seems unlikely to arise, except perhaps in Northern Ireland.

But Britain's fears about the unreliability of some of its partners seem all too justified. Italy, for example, has said flatly that it cannot implement a quota system.

Within Britain the NFU's main concern is that the system is too inflexible. The Commission's edict is that there is no such thing as a national quota, that quotas are allocated to individual farmholdings and that they are not transferable, which means that farmers can only hope to expand production if they can convince the ministry that they deserve special treatment.

The tribunals set up to consider the so called hardship applications are a bureaucratic nightmare; despite the recent tripling of their staff from 30 to 90, they have lagged far behind: the original deadline of the end of October.

Worse still, the fact that Britain's production is running below quota means that its allocation could be cut next year or the year after.

As if all this were not confusing enough, the British dairy industry faces the imminent ending of price controls. In theory that could lead to a price war, with supermarkets undercutting the big dairy firms by as much as 5p or 6p a pint.

The milk marketing boards and the Dairy Trade Federation have for years insisted that it is only because milk is still delivered to front doors that the British continue to drink more than anyone else. But almost everyone else, including farmers, foreign butters and cheese manufacturers, and the Brussels Commission itself, are strongly opposed to the so called dual pricing systems, whereby the high returns from the sale of drinking milk are used to subsidize the price charged to creameries.

Tomorrow: The grain mountains

REPORTING AWARD Two £500 prizes to be won

The Van den Bergh & Jurgens Reporting Award is open to any journalist or writer employed by, or contributing to, newspapers, journals, radio or television in the United Kingdom.

CATEGORY A £500 will be awarded to the winning entrant who has made the best contribution to nutrition to a specialist journal or broadcast designed for a specific audience.

CATEGORY B £500 will also be awarded to the winning entrant whose work has created a better understanding of nutrition among the general public.

Entries for the 1984 Award must have been published or broadcast during the 12 months ending 31 December 1983. Closing date for entries is 11 January 1984.

Last year's winners were Professor Philip James, for his article "Energy Requirements and Obesity" published in the *Lancet* and Geoffrey Cannon, for his article "Battle for the British Diet" published in the *Sunday Times*.

An entry form and copy of the rules and conditions of the Award is available from:

The Nutrition Education Service
Van den Bergh & Jurgens
Limited Sussex House
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Please send me a copy of the rules and conditions of entry for this Reporting Award.
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Two men convicted, one freed, in £26m Brinks-Mat raid trial

Britain's biggest robbery case ended yesterday with the conviction of two men and the acquittal of a third, in a trial lasting 11 days.

After a four-week trial two men were convicted at the Central Criminal Court of helping to mastermind "a spectacular but simple" armed raid on a Brinks-Mat warehouse at Heathrow airport in November last year.

Michael John McAvoy, aged 33, a builder of Beckwith Road, East Dulwich, south-east London, and Brian Robinson, aged 41, a motor dealer of Lovelock Close, Rollins Street Peckham, south-east London, were found guilty of robbery by a 10 to two majority.

Anthony Michael White, aged 40, of Redlaw Way, St James's Road, Rotherhithe, was acquitted. Mr White, a motor trader, thanked the jury and was granted his costs, expected to amount to several thousand pounds, out of public funds. All three had denied robbery.

Mr White, who claimed in his defence that he had been "fitted-up" by detectives, hurried from the court after spending a year in prison custody. He smiled broadly and said: "No comment again, I'm very sorry."

The court told that masked and armed raiders poured watered-down petrol over terrified security guards and threatened to set them alight unless they gave the combination number to the high security vault. "The victims would smell petrol and, not knowing it was mixed with water, the fear and terror was all too obvious", Mr Michael Corkery, for the prosecution, said.

Three tons of gold bullion worth £22 million were stolen along with platinum, diamonds and travellers' cheques. But the haul has yet to be located despite a £2.1 million "no questions asked" reward, which equals the haul in the Great Train Robbery of 1963. There

have also been worldwide inquiries by Scotland Yard which have proved fruitless.

Londoners living in luxury in Spain, many of them alleged to have links with the robbery gang, are wanted for questioning about the raid. After retiring since Thursday, the jury of seven women and five men returned verdicts yesterday in an historic sitting of the Central Criminal Court. It is the first time that the court has been convened on a Sunday.

The Common Serjeant of London, Judge David Tudor Price, will pass sentence this afternoon on McAvoy and Robinson. The Lord Chancellor had directed that no sentencing could be carried out yesterday.

The jury had spent three nights at a secret hotel in London. The judge told them yesterday that he would not ask them to consider their verdicts indefinitely. "Do not think you must go on beyond a limit which is reasonable", he said.

Government expected to face acid rain protest

By Tony Samstag

The Government is bracing itself today for a storm of protest from conservationists and from some of its closest allies in Europe when it announces its rejection of a parliamentary select committee's recommendations on acid rain.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to tell Parliament that proposed reductions in sulphur dioxide emissions from power stations are unacceptable, as is the principle of "add-on" technology, fitting pollution control equipment to existing plants.

In September, the Commons environment committee declared itself "deeply disturbed" by Britain's policy on acid rain and "appalled" by failure to monitor the damage done to buildings by corrosion from air pollution. The absence of serious research into the phenomenon had been "a major failure" and evidence given by the Central Electricity Generating Board, arguing against many of the remedial proposals, "true and evasive".

The committee said the United Kingdom should join the so-called "30 per cent club" immediately, and the CEBG should be required by 1995 to install power station equipment that would meet an EEC draft directive calling for a 60 per cent reduction in emissions.

A score of countries have joined the "club" and only Britain, among the main industrial nations of Europe, has consistently refused. The Government is thought to be rather more sympathetic to proposed reductions in oxides of nitrogen and hydrocarbons.

Today's announcement marks a dramatic reversal in what had seemed to be a gradual conversion of Mrs Thatcher's Government to the conservationist view of the acid rain issue.



Sleeping beauty: Daniel Pownall, aged 14 months, from Nutgrove, Liverpool, with his mother, Ann, after being chosen as Boots Baby of the Year (Photograph John Manning)

Surgeon adopts 'Boy David'

David Lopez, now aged 10, the Peruvian boy whose face was destroyed by disease when he was a baby, has been adopted by the surgeon who saved him. Mrs Marjorie Jackson, wife of the consultant surgeon in the

case, Mr Ian Jackson, received the adoption papers sent from Peru in Glasgow yesterday. The story of "Boy David" became known to millions when it was shown on BBC television. As a child in the

upper Amazonian jungle, the centre of the boy's face was completely eaten away by a disease called noma. The Jacksons took him into their family while he underwent more than 50 operations.

MP opposes cathedral coach park

A move to create a coach park within the cathedral close at Salisbury may be raised in the Commons by Mr Robert Key, Conservative MP for Salisbury. He said yesterday: "I am appalled by this act of vandalism."

Two planning applications made by the dean, the Very Rev Sydney Evans, would involve building on water meadows made famous by the artist, John Constable.

Unequal places

The contrast between the number of men and women graduating from Glasgow University was one of the striking features shown annually at graduation ceremonies. Sir Alwyn Williams, the Principal of the university said on Saturday. He said steps should be taken specifically to recruit women students.

Fight for jobs

Workers at a BICC telephone cable plant at Prescot on Merseyside, which is to close next April, voted yesterday to fight to save more than 400 jobs, and began an overtime ban. The workers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said they would strike if management did not change its mind.

Help for children

King Edwards' School, an independent school in Birmingham, is launching a £20,000-a-year project aimed at finding Birmingham's brightest but poorest children. They will be given special courses and teaching, although they will not attend normal lessons at the school.

Electricity blast

Ten people were taken to hospital yesterday when an explosion totally destroyed an electric sub-station next to their homes in Scarsbrick Road, Rainford, on Merseyside. Five hundred homes were without electricity for an hour and a half.

Campaign to update the Norwich road

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A campaign has been launched to improve what is probably England's worst road between London and a regional centre: the A11 to Norwich.

It serves as the main route for Norwich and the northern part of East Anglia for tourist and heavy lorry traffic, but it is not really a major road at all, most of it being poor-standard single-carriageway with few opportunities for safe overtaking.

In the Commons last week, Mr John Borely, Conservative MP for Norwich South, described the A11 as "limited and dangerous" and called on the Government for a priority programme of improvements. On the 42-mile road from Newmarket to Norwich, he said, there had been so far this year 264 accidents, including 11 deaths.

Mr Henry Bellingham, Conservative MP for Norfolk North West, said he had nearly been killed on his way to the debate when an oncoming lorry had careered out of control and narrowly missed his car. Motorways and high-standard dual carriageways are absent from Norfolk and Suffolk, except for the A45

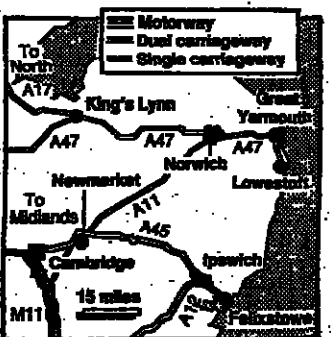
Shake-up for SR timetables

British Rail's Southern Region commuters face a shake-up in their train times in May for the second year running (Our Transport Editor writes).

This is to correct the effects of last May's changes, the most radical for seven years, which SR now admit went badly wrong. Trains that might previously have been five minutes late have lost up to 20 minutes since May. Trains got in each other's way at pinchpoints and there was no leeway to make up lost time. Both staff and passengers have been confused by the new timings.

The main aim of this year's change was to save about £1 million by increasing productivity, and this was done primarily by tightening schedules, cutting out the one-to-two minute "recovery margins" traditionally built into SR timetables to allow time lost in competition for track carrying nearly 4,000 trains a day to be made up.

At the same time, SR decided to abandon the traditional pattern of 20-minute intervals between trains in favour of new timings responding more closely to the wishes of passengers.



Sun criticized for rejecting director's letter

The Sun should have published a short letter to correct a complaint of inaccuracies after printing an interview with a leading industrialist that presented him in harsh light, the Press Council ruled today.

To that extent the council upheld a complaint by Mr William McCrindle, chairman and managing director of the McCrindle group of engineering companies, that a Sun report significantly misrepresented his views and the policies of his company.

The report described him as the toughest boss in Britain, rapidly gaining the reputation as Clydeside's answer to J. R. Ewing and quoting him as saying he was utterly ruthless.

After reading it Mr McCrindle sought publication of a six-point letter to correct "some inaccuracies" but that was refused.

At the council's request Miss Marjory Davidson, the reporter, supplied copies of her notes of the interview.

GPs pressed to fight limits on NHS drugs

By Nicholas Timmins

Family doctors will soon face a high-pressure advertising campaign to get them to oppose the Government's plans for limiting the drugs available on the National Health Service, and the drug industry is not even going to have to pay for it, according to the industry's trade association.

Advertisements in a number of supposedly independent medical newspapers, which go free to most GPs every week on the strength of hundreds of thousands of pounds spent a year on drug company advertising, will encourage Britain's 29,000 family doctors to write to their MPs to protest at the Government's moves.

The newspapers, for example *General Practitioner*, published by Haymarket, and *Pulse*, published by Morgan Grenfell, claim to be independent of the drug companies despite relying almost exclusively on them for their income.

But according to the Association of the British Pharmac-

tical Industry, these and others such as *Doctor and Medical News* have agreed to give the association free space to run its campaign.

"They have offered us some space," the association said yesterday. "There will be some creative costs but not space-buying costs."

The campaign will coincide with one aimed at the general public and costing at least £200,000 in daily Sunday and regional newspapers, for which the industry will be paying. These, too, will urge the general public to write to their MPs.

Under the Government's proposals, the list of drugs available on the NHS for home cures, vitamins, laxatives, pain killers, tranquilizers and sedatives will be highly restricted.

The association believes that a "two-tier" NHS result in which the elderly, the poor and the young will be restricted to second-class drugs for many conditions if they cannot afford to pay for the banned ones.

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Lot 432, the Queen Anne piece that sold and sold...

Dealers' association inquiries into a bookcase's auction

By Geraldine Norman and Richard Dowden

It was uncomfortably hot in the crowded marquee on that brilliant July afternoon as Mr Simon Bruton, the young auctioneer, brought the sale to its climax with the hundred-odd items of fine English furniture. He could feel pleased. Even though the auction was being held in an obscure Cotswold village, some of the country's biggest dealers were represented and bidding had been brisk.

Lot 432, a Queen Anne walnut bookcase in two parts, was one of the more interesting pieces. "Upper part fitted with a pair of glazed rectangular moulded and astragal doors and having two panel doors under" was how the catalogue described it. But it was in poor condition from being stored in a closed house for eight years where damp had dampened and warped the veneer. Several of the big traders were after it. Mr Terry Baxter, whose family have been leading trade suppliers from Fulham Road, London, for two generations, and Mr Maurice Turpin, another successful dealer, who works out of a new flat off Queensgate in London. Known in the trade as "Dick" Turpin, his bulky frame and black walrus moustache are familiar all over Britain at country auctions which he combs for fine furniture.

Mr Turpin had just bought the previous lot, a Chippendale mahogany armchair, for £4,800. In the bidding for the bookcase, Mr Baxter believes he was the underbidder dropping out at £14,000 and it was with Mr Turpin's bid of £15,000 that Mr Bruton's hammer fell.

The reverberations are still echoing through the antique world. Within four days the bookcase had passed through the hands of five dealers and the price had increased by more than 50 per cent.

The British Antique Dealers' Association has held a major inquiry and there have been threats of libel writs and resignations from BADA. It has also thrown a chunk of light into the closed world of the antiques trade.

The events which focused so much controversy on this elegant but unexceptional Queen Anne bookcase began when Mr John Partridge whose plush West End business was founded by his grandfather, spoke to his friend Mr David Nickerson of Mallett's. Mallett's and Partridge are the doyens of the antique furniture business. They have shops almost opposite each other in Bond Street, though the word shop demands those Aladdin's caves of gilded chinoiserie wall mirrors, glowing mahogany tables, satinwood and marquetry.

Mr Partridge said he was interested in the bookcase. Mr Nickerson told him he had already arranged with Mr Turpin to bid on it for him. They agreed they should work in partnership and that Mr Turpin should buy the piece for them for a maximum of £16,000 with Mr Turpin

owning 25 per cent and they owning 75 per cent between them. Mr Partridge agreed reluctantly. Neither Mr Partridge nor Mr Nickerson went to the sale at Hawksbury Home Farm, Hawksbury, Gloucestershire, on Thursday, July 19. The bookcase came up on the second day of the auction of the entire furniture and effects of Mrs Elizabeth Dreyfus. Bruton Knowles of Gloucester were the auctioneers.

Mrs Dreyfus, once a famous yachtswoman, whose family had owned the estate for more than 400 years, was rich and capricious. In the 1950s and 1960s she had accumulated a fine collection of antique furniture but she had developed Parkinson's disease and spent the last eight years of her life in a nursing home.

The property, which she had never looked after well, fell into neglect and, having no relatives near by to maintain it, she closed up the house with all the furniture in it. It was damp and burglars broke in twice.

When she died, her brother and heir, Sir Anthony Banks Jenkinson, decided to auction it all off and the dealers gathered from all over the country for the choice pieces. Everything was to be sold with no reserve prices. Mr Arthur Negus, who is consultant for Bruton Knowles, helped draw up the catalogue.

"It was one of the finest sales we've ever had," he said. "It was extraordinary to walk in there and find so many period pieces untouched. It will be years before we see another house like it."

On the morning of the sale Mr Turpin telephoned Mr Nickerson and recommended that they raised their ceiling on the bookcase to £20,000. Mr Partridge and Mr Nickerson agreed. Late in the afternoon, Mr Partridge rang the auctioneers and was told that the bookcase had been acquired by Mr Turpin for £15,000.

But the following morning, according to Mr Partridge, Mr Turpin rang Mr Nickerson and told him that he hadn't been able to "hold" it. According to Mr Nickerson, Mr Turpin said that a major dealer had bought it for £26,000.

To anyone familiar with the antique trade the verb "hold" indicates a ring. It means that a group of dealers have got together and agreed not to bid against each other at the auction to buy more cheaply. Afterwards they hold their own auction or "knockout" and the highest bidder is said to have "held" the piece. The difference in price between the two auctions is pooled and split among the ring members. The practice is illegal and explicitly against the BADA by-laws.

On the morning of July 20 Mr Partridge and Mr Nickerson, outraged by what Mr Turpin had told them, asked him to meet them at Bourdon House, Mallett's second shop off Berkeley Square. Mr Partridge and Mr Nickerson were



Mr Bernard Apter, who paid £23,000 for the bookcase

dissatisfied with Mr Turpin's explanation and decided to make an official complaint to BADA. While Mr Nickerson made the formal complaint to BADA, Mr Partridge wrote a covering letter recording his notes of discussions with Mr Turpin.

"Mr Turpin... was very honest and open about the whole event... I explained to him very forcibly that it was not my way of conducting business and since he informed us that members of BADA were involved in this practice we would have to report the matter."

Mr Brand Inglis, BADA's chairman, began an investigation by asking Mr Bernard Apter, the dealer who then owned

the piece, to see him at the organization's headquarters in Rutland Gate on August 28. Mr Apter, who runs Apter-Fredericks, vehemently denied that he or his firm were involved in a ring and gave his account of how he had acquired the piece.

When *The Times* saw Mr Apter recently he explained that he had changed his mind about the bookcase. He had viewed the sale in a thunderstorm and it was tucked away in a dark corner. He had missed it. He was surprised at the sale when he saw the price it fetched he became interested and took another look at it.

Over the weekend he decided to buy it and on Monday morning, paying one of his

Mr Terry Baxter (top left) and Mr "Dick" Turpin (above), with moustache, at a Christie's sale in London last week (Photographs: John Manning)

regular calls on his colleague Mr Terry Baxter, he found that Mr Baxter now owned the piece. He bought it from him for £23,000.

Mr Apter cannot understand how Mr Turpin could have told Mr Partridge on the previous Friday that Mr Apter had bought the piece. He assumes Mr Turpin was mistaken or speculating and he says that when Mr Inglis told him that Mr Turpin had broken his agreement to buy the piece for Partridge and Mallett's, he returned it to Mr Baxter at once.

Mr Baxter told *The Times* that having been an underbidder at the sale, he and a colleague, Mr Melvyn Lipitch, bought it from Mr Turpin the same afternoon for £17,000 plus value-added tax.

Mr Lipitch, like Mr Apter and Mr Baxter, comes from Fulham Road. All are BADA members. Their glossy shops with spotlights and pile carpets, are full of eighteenth-century English furniture of the top quality. Mr Apter in particular has upgraded his business which he inherited from his father-in-law, to the point where he competes as a retailer with Partridge and Mallett's for the top end of the trade. In the West End Fulham Road is called "The Brown Mile".

Mr Inglis next wrote to Mr Baxter, Mr Lipitch and Mr Wilkie Bulfinch asking them for their comments on the Nickerson/Partridge complaint. In his reply Mr Baxter explained: "I bid £14,000 in the sale for this and was expecting to buy other things which I failed to do. At the end of the sale I telephoned my brother to tell him of my purchases. He raised his disappointment at us not buying the walnut cabinet which he felt we could make a good job of restoring."

"Later in discussion with Mr Melvyn Lipitch, whom I travelled to the sale and also felt it had possibilities, we decided to approach Mr Bull to see if perhaps he

could buy the cabinet on our behalf from Mr Turpin and we gave him a small commission for the same. This he did." Baxter says the commission was £700 or £800.

On October 25, Mr Baxter, Mr Lipitch and Mr Bull were all questioned together by the executive committee of BADA.

Mr Baxter said he asked Mr Bull, an Essex dealer, to act as intermediary because he thought Mr Turpin might not be willing to sell it to someone who had bid against him in the auction.

Mr Inglis also tried to interview Mr Turpin who is not a member of BADA. Mr Turpin refused to meet him. He also refused to talk to *The Times*. When he confronted him at a recent Sotheby's sale he said: "I don't care about the allegations. They are all lies."

Whether Mr Turpin's story is to be believed or not may never be known. For its part the BADA committee, he tried to do his best to investigate the allegations. Road members and Mr Bull. "As far as we are concerned the matter is closed," Mr Inglis told us. "We are pretty confident that nothing happened."

But the BADA inquiry did not ask to see stockbooks or check with auctioneers and carriers who handled the furniture after the sale. Only one other BADA member who was at the sale was contacted for corroborative evidence. One member of the committee said: "It was a very gentlemanly affair."

But while BADA's gentlemanly inquiry left a lot of stones unturned, our own inquiries have been viewed with deep suspicion, some stone-walling and not a little resentment.

"A wall of silence" was how Mr Anthony Crosland described it when, as president of the Board of Trade in 1958, he tried to investigate allegations of an auction ring. In that case a Duccio Madonna, bought for £2,700, was sold a short while later to the National Gallery for £140,000.

Our experience has matched Mr Crosland's. In this case Bruton Knowles would only confirm that they had conducted the sale and that it had made £451,000. Even when told by Sir Anthony Jenkinson, the executor, that the family had no objection to the details being released to *The Times*, Mr Bruton, the auctioneer, refused to disclose prices or the names of bidders or buyers. He would not reveal what he had heard of the vendor's solicitors or dealers who might have been there.

"I have to do business with the dealers," Mr Bruton said. "It would be wrong for me to give out their names." He said he took no particular precautions against rings operating at his sales and that what happened after a sale was no concern of his.

The Times has been in touch with a large number of dealers who were at the sale. Some of the most reputable London dealers at first denied they were there and only admitted their presence reluctantly when reminded what they had bought.

The bookcase now stands in Mr Baxter's restoration workshop but he is not sure if he will agree to accept it back from Mr Apter. Meanwhile Mr Partridge is considering resigning from BADA, the organization his grandfather helped to found.

So lot 432 from the Hawksbury sale is still troubling the antique trade world. One day it will be offered for sale to the public at more than twice the auction price of £15,000.

Sri Lanka confusion on death toll

From Donovan Moldrich Colombo

The Government last night drastically reduced the figures it had earlier released over the number of Sinhalese fishermen allegedly killed at Nyaru and Kokkai, two villages 10 miles north of Mullativu, and said the total murdered by Tamil separatist rebels was only 11.

Yesterday morning Dr Wickremesoorie, chairman of the media committee, said 27 had been killed at Nyaru and 30 at Kokkai. In the afternoon, the state-owned radio said 29 had died at Nyaru and 30 at Kokkai, making a total of 59.

The last night, the same radio said the total killed in both villages was only 11. Dr Weerasoorie said the earlier figures were on the basis of information from fishermen who had fled from the villages.

After on-the-spot investigations by police, it had been established that only four had died at Nyaru and seven at Kokkai.

Early on Friday, rebels allegedly killed 80 Sinhalese farmers, including three women and four children, at two resettlement schemes for former prisoners on the border of Mullativu district and Anuradhapura district in the north-central province.

In the northern province, where an all-day curfew was enforced yesterday, a third attempted rebel landing was foiled when the Navy fired at eight boats on Saturday, destroying six and killing about 60 occupants. The other two boats escaped.

Dr Weerasoorie said the continuing attacks on Sinhalese civilians had created a refugee problem. Non-government organizations and foreign groups like Unicef were helping to look after about 3,000 refugees, most of whom were women and children, at temporary camps in schools.

Dr Weerasoorie said it was evident that the attacks were aimed at provoking a backlash in the south to divert the attention of the armed services in the north and east.

"We are only defending our territory," said the Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulthumudali, said yesterday, replying to a statement from Delhi by a spokesman of the Indian External Affairs Ministry that Colombo was building up a war psychosis.

Referring to India's denials about training camps for Tamil rebels in Tamil Nadu, the Minister said hundreds of rebels who had been arrested had revealed the locations of the camps.

Electioneering on the Ganges Rajiv pours his scorn on Janata

From Michael Hamlyn, Varanasi

On the first day of his election campaign, the Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, as is right and proper, went to the holiest city of the Hindu religion, Varanasi, which is still sometimes called Benares.

As was also appropriate, he spent his first day helicoptering through the electrically most important state in the Union, Uttar Pradesh. It has more parliamentary seats than any other (85), and an electorate so volatile that in 1971 Congress won 73, in 1980 51, but in 1977, Mrs Gandhi won no seats at all.

In the misty, sun-blooded dawn yesterday, Mr Gandhi went to the banks of the holy Mother Ganges, to the Golden Temple of Varanasi, to pay due homage to the Lord Shiva at outset of his campaign.

Around him, the awakening town paid scant attention to the armed police guarding each cross road, and went about the business of praying, bathing in the sacred waters and enticing tourists.

Devout Hindus, men and women, stood waist-deep in the fouly polluted river in attitudes of anxious piety while the sun rose and police sirens were drowned in the noise of bells, rhythmic chanting and loud-speaker prayers.

On the burning ghats - the most auspicious place in the world for your cremation - only one pyre burned brightly as blanketed attendants poured cooling water on the embers of others.

The night before the Prime Minister addressed a throng of 50,000 supporters in the grounds of the Sanskrit university of the city. The university, founded in 1791, used to be known as Queen's College.

His tone, as he made his seven-minute speech of the day, was uncompromising. He vitally charged the Opposition with disloyalty. He accused it of deluding itself and the public, and poured scorn on the visit to Pakistan earlier this year by leaders of the Janata party.

"They came back and said the American arms being given to Pakistan were no threat to India," he said, in measured Hindi. "The same people later went to the Golden Temple of Amritsar and said there were no terrorists and no weapons there."

The policy for the election, laid down under his guidance a year ago in an important party conference in Bombay, was to promote the slogan, *desh bachao* ("save the nation"), and Mr Gandhi is making fullest use of the perceived threat to the country's unity and integrity.

He hammered at the danger to the country exposed "in Assam, Punjab and Kashmir", and then declared the opposition leaders were "ready to sell their country for their own interests."

Two other themes Mr Gandhi drove home: he accused the Opposition of lack of ideology or ability to run the country. "Agricultural production actually dropped in the three years following 1977 (when the Opposition was in power)," Mr Gandhi said. "Shortages returned to this country. But in 1980 to 1983, Congress put the country back on track. The country progressed faster than in any previous five years. India's growth rate has been higher than England's or America's."

Mr Gandhi also called on his mother's memory. Having driven to the university under archways saying May Indira Gandhi Live Forever, he told his audience: "They have taken away her body, but her ideas will not die, her principles will not die, her spirit will not die."

Civilian held for assassination

Satwant Singh, one of the suspected assassins of Indira Gandhi, has admitted his guilt but named the other suspect, Beant Singh, who was slain, as the mastermind of the attack, according to the police.

They also said they had arrested Sher Singh, a civilian from Delhi, who was allegedly involved in the conspiracy to kill Mrs Gandhi. He was arrested on Friday and remained in police custody for 14 days by the magistrate.

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Triads remain a threat in Hong Kong

From David Bonavia Hong Kong

The continuing strength of Triad organizations in Hong Kong has been seriously under-rated in recent years, according to Sir Philip Huddon-Cave, the Chief Secretary of the Government.

In his capacity as chairman of the "fight crime" committee, he said a serious outbreak of gang violence last year had brought home the fact that the traditional secret societies were still strong and had not been dispersed.

A government review in 1976-77 had concluded that the gangs - which use semi-magical formulas and strict vows of secrecy to enforce their domination of the underworld - had declined into loosely-knit groups of law-breakers employing the old prestige of the Triads, for criminal and politically motivated activity.

Police yesterday reported, breaking up a drug syndicate and seizing nearly £400,000 worth of heroin and heroin base. The syndicate was said to be using young children as couriers.

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Kiss takes black boy into court

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

In one of those telling cameos of life in South Africa, which in an instant wipe out years of painstaking diplomatic effort to improve the country's image, a 17-year-old African boy was charged last week with "assaulting" a white baby girl by hugging and, it was alleged, kissing her.

The charge, which led to the youth's being brought before a magistrate's court in Grahamstown, in the Eastern Cape, was laid after a white man, Mr Nico Claassen, saw the incident, and drew it to the attention of the girl's parents.

He went down on his knees and opened his arms and the little girl ran into them. He hugged and kissed her," Mr Claassen said. "I was concerned when I saw that, because this boy regularly works at the corner home where he looks after small children, so I reported it to the little girl's parents."

Mr Claassen said he had not himself been angered by the incident, adding: "If I had been angry, I would have gone across the street and hit him. But you can't allow this sort of thing to go on. You never know what his real intentions were when he kissed the little girl."

The magistrate acquitted the boy, but on the technicality that Mr Claassen might have been mistaken about the kiss as he had been some distance away. A kiss, the magistrate ruled, could fairly be construed as an assault.

During the hearing, a lawyer representing the accused explained that he had known the little white girl for more than a year. He admitted having hugged her, but denied that he had given her a kiss.

The spokesman on law and order for the opposition Progressive Federal Party, Mrs Helen Suzman, said the case against the youth was "racist and ridiculous."

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Warning for potential defectors Soviet deserters tell of 'nightmare'

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The claim by the two Soviet Army deserters who returned to Moscow from London last month that they had been drugged and maltreated while in Britain was dismissed yesterday by Western diplomats as a further attempt by the Kremlin to reinforce its view of the West and dissuade potential defectors.

Observers pointed out that the two soldiers had not been presented at a news conference or on television, and that claims were contained in a newspaper article which included only two direct quotes.

Under the headline "The return," *Izvestiya* reported an interview with Sergeant Igor Rykov and Private Oleg Khlan in Moscow conducted last Friday. The two men were taken prisoner in Afghanistan last year by Afghan insurgents and were brought to Britain last June after intervention by Lord Bethell, the MEP.

In London, they described Soviet atrocities in Afghanistan and said they had deserted before being captured. But like two other returning defectors - the journalist Oleg Bitov and Stalin's daughter Svetlana - the two soldiers were lonely and homesick in the West and last month returned voluntarily to Russia to be reunited with their families.

It had been thought that the Kremlin might remain silent on the case, since the war in Afghanistan and desertion from the Army are sensitive topics for the authorities.

Izvestiya claimed, however, that the soldiers had not deserted but had fallen into rebel hands. The paper gave few details of their Afghan experience beyond saying that they were drugged by the rebels - which the two men admitted while in London - and that they had refused to reveal military secrets under interrogation.

The newspaper quoted the two men as saying that their experiences in Pakistan, where they were handed over to Lord Bethell, and in England had been "a nightmare." Echoing both Mr Bitov and Svetlana Aliluyeva, Sergeant Rykov remarked that they had not been "left alone with our thoughts for a single moment" in London, adding: "But I clearly understood that I could only live in the country of my birth."

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Zia springs referendum surprise on Pakistan's unprepared opposition

From Hassan Akhtar Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, who has ruled Pakistan as head of the military Government for seven years and five months, on Saturday night announced his decision to hold a referendum on December 19 on whether to continue as President for another five year term. The referendum is to be held on the basis of direct adult franchise and its result will be officially announced by December 22.

A Government spokesman indicated after the President's unscheduled radio and television broadcast that the Government would deal firmly with any attempt to subvert the referendum.

Opposition parties would not be permitted to use traditional forums to vent their criticism of the referendum, he said. If they were against it, they could show it by voting against it.

General Zia is seeking public endorsement for his Islamic reforms and policies in a country with 97 per cent Muslim population and where Islamic militancy has been on the ascendancy.

Few observers here think that there would be many Muslims who would vote "No" to the continuation of the Islamization in Pakistan, a country carved out of India in 1947 in the name of Islam.

The general, who as the Army chief toppled Prime Minister Zulfikar Bhutto's civilian Government in a coup in July 1977, said that he would ask the people's verdict on his Islamic policies so far.

A majority of "Yes" votes in the referendum would imply that the public wanted him to continue in office for five more years from the day the new National Assembly, Senate and provincial assemblies come into being after elections next spring, he said.

General Zia's referendum plan came as a surprise because in the past few weeks the official media have been informing the people about the preparations for the general elections.

The Opposition, especially the 11-party alliance Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) has however urged the people to boycott the proposed elections, asserting that these could not be fair unless the 1973 constitution and the election rules were revived.

General Zia's referendum plan appears to have caught the Opposition by surprise. A few Opposition leaders contended that the general sought to exploit Pakistan's Islamic sentiments to perpetuate his rule.

The continuing strength of Triad organizations in Hong Kong has been seriously under-rated in recent years, according to Sir Philip Huddon-Cave, the Chief Secretary of the Government.

Husain's Cairo visit adds urgency to fresh Palestine peace initiative

From Christopher Walker
Cairo

Moves are under way to try to break the deadlock in the Middle East peace process by forming a coalition between Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians to enter negotiations with Israel over the future of the occupied territories.

The attempted realignment in the Arab world, welcomed by Western Diplomatic sources, has received fresh momentum from King Hussein's successful state visit to Egypt, his first since President Sadat's historic flight to Jerusalem in 1977.

Strict security is in operation for the visit which has provoked anger in radical Arab states, some of whom have characterized it as a conspiracy. It follows Jordan's renewal of diplomatic ties with the Egyptians in September.

The formation of the coalition of so-called moderates in the Arab world will continue early next year when Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, is due to pay an official visit to Cairo. His last, after the siege of Beirut, did much to help Egypt in its return to the centre of the Arab stage.

In Israel the moves are provoking different reactions from right and left in the national unity Government. Observers believe it would have no hope of surviving any negotiations involving territorial compromise over the occupied West Bank, regarded by the Likud as part of the biblical land of Israel.

Yesterday the Jordanian monarch and President Mubarak addressed strongly-worded speeches to an enthusiastic session of the Egyptian Parliament. Both used words like "stalemate" and "frustration" to describe the state of the struggle to restore

'New formula a step forward'

The Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, a left-wing pressure group said yesterday that the outcome of the meeting of Palestine National Council in Amman was "a revolutionary step toward peace between Israel and the Palestinians" (Our Tel Aviv Correspondent writes). This contradicted the official Israeli position as expressed by the Mr Shimon Peres, Prime Minister, who said the Amman resolutions have no concrete meaning that could change the situation.

Mr Yri Aveny, speaking for the Council, which consists of both Jews and Arabs, at a press conference here, said the PLO's call "to people of conscience in Israel" was an historic change as all previous resolutions had demanded a readiness for dialogue only with Zionist Israel.

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Yesterday the Jordanian monarch and President Mubarak addressed strongly-worded speeches to an enthusiastic session of the Egyptian Parliament. Both used words like "stalemate" and "frustration" to describe the state of the struggle to restore

the rights of the Palestinians, the issue dominating the visit.

Mr Mubarak's speech was regarded as one of the most powerful and eloquent he has delivered since he succeeded the more flamboyant President Sadat. He spoke of the Arab world reaching the brink of the abyss because of its disunity and made a number of bitter remarks interpreted as critical of Syria's stand.

President Mubarak publicly endorsed King Hussein's plan for an initiative based on an exchange of territory with Israel which he first outlined during last week's controversial 17th session of the Palestine National Council in Amman.

Both leaders went out of their way to emphasize that they were not seeking to speak on behalf of the PLO at any talks with the Israelis. But diplomats here are still seeking clarification of an Egyptian idea floated last week in which the possibility was raised of certain Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza being given a mandate to negotiate on behalf of the PLO.

King Hussein told Parliament that he had always opposed the Camp David accords because they eliminated the PLO from the peace process.

The Hashemite monarch made it clear during his speech to Parliament that he regarded the return of annexed east Jerusalem as essential to any agreement with Israel.



Poncho power: Indian street vendors marching beneath their union banners through the streets of La Paz.

Bolivians fear coup as strike goes on

La Paz (Reuters) - Negotiations on ending a four-day-old general strike in Bolivia resumed yesterday amid growing fears of a military coup.

The Workers Confederation (COB), which launched its seventh general strike this year in protest at austerity measures, said that it would harden its stance if President Siles Zuazo's left-wing Government failed to give in to its demands.

Officials and trades union negotiators argued by candlelight on Saturday night as a 45-minute power cut plunged the capital into darkness.

The newspaper *El Diario* said that the armed forces commander, General Simon Sejas, was engaged in a struggle for power with the head of the Army, General Jose Olvis Arias.

The country's Roman Catholic bishops warned after meeting representatives of private business over the weekend that Bolivia's economic crisis, with the annual inflation rate topping 1,000 per cent, could lead to violent upheaval.

Officials at the state power utility blamed the blackout on a storm near the Zongo power plant in the Andes, but electrical and communications workers had advocated stepping up pressure on the Government by cutting off power and telephone lines to La Paz.

The COB is seeking better food supplies, a freeze on prices and an inflation-linked minimum wage to offset price increases.

Pentagon explains carrier off Cuba

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

American officials said yesterday that the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz was rushed to the aid of a disabled ship off the coast of Cuba last Friday because of concern that the Cubans might seize the vessel for political purposes.

The 90,000-ton Nimitz, which was on a visit to the US Virgin Islands 500 miles away, was ordered to sea so quickly the 1,000 of its 5,200 crew were left behind.

As it turned out, the services

of the Nimitz and its escort, the nuclear-powered cruiser *Arizans*, were not needed. The stricken vessel, the *Seaward Explorer*, was towed away by a US Coast Guard vessel and is due to arrive in Miami for repairs today.

The incident began late on Thursday when the *Seaward Explorer*, on charter to the US Navy's Oceanographic Command, developed engine trouble and started drifting towards the north-east coast of Cuba. A Cuban ship was sent to give assistance, but its tow line got

tangled up in its own propeller. The decision to dispatch the Nimitz was taken after the Cuban authorities informed the United States - that it might be necessary to take the disabled ship to a Cuban port for repairs.

"We did not want the Cubans to take that ship", a senior Pentagon official said. "The Cubans might have tried to make a political show of the whole thing and held the crew and the ship. We did not want that to happen. So we sent the Nimitz because its planes could get to the scene."

Sanguinetti to meet released Blanco leader

Montevideo - President-elect Julio Sanguinetti is expected to meet the released Blanco Party leader Señor Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, today in an encounter which observers said could be critical to the stability of the future civilian government (Douglas Tweedale writes).

Señor Ferreira was released on Friday night after spending five months in a military jail on charges brought by the departing military government.

Changes for Singapore

Lee calls early election to clear way for youth

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's Prime Minister, has settled months of speculation by calling a general election for December 22, it was announced here yesterday.

It had been expected for some time that an election would be held this month, a year early, but the Government has been under no pressure and there is no real threat to Mr Lee's People Action Party (PAP), which has been in power since 1959 and holds all but one seat in Parliament.

While most of the world has been suffering from recession, Singapore has experienced steady growth and increased prosperity, and the PAP will be expected to increase further its share of the popular vote.

Opposition parties say they will field about 50 candidates in the 79 constituencies, including the only opposition MP, Mr J. B. Jeyaretnam, the secretary-general of the Workers' Party. Mr Jeyaretnam's vociferous criticism of the Government has antagonized the ruling parties which is clearly determined to unseat him.

Mr Lee's party is putting forward more than 20 new candidates to take over from MPs who, having reached their sixties, are standing down. Among the new faces is Brigadier Lee Hsien Loong, the former Deputy Commander of the defence forces and the son of the Prime Minister.

Mr Lee, aged 61, says that he is also contemplating retirement, at least as Prime Minister. One of the tasks of the new Parliament will be to consider a constitutional amendment to create an elected President who would have the power to stop a government spending reserves it had not itself accumulated. Mr Lee has indicated that he sees himself in this role when he stands down.

After yesterday's statement President Devan Nair is expected to dissolve Parliament tomorrow. Candidates have to be nominated by December 12, leaving just nine days for campaigning.



Mr Lee: May step down as Prime Minister

Bombs defused near Athens rally platform

Athens - Two powerful time-bombs were defused by police on Saturday near the platform on which Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek Opposition leader, addressed an anti-government rally. In Athens to protest against bias on state television (Mario Midiano writes).

The demonstrators, estimated by police at 25,000 and by the organizers at 200,000, marched from the headquarters of the Greek television corporation to Constitution Square.

The bombs, found in the lavatory of a fast-food shop some 500 ft from the platform, comprised large quantities of nitroglycerine wired to a time device set to explode during the rally.

Military court told to free Thai academic

Bangkok - The Thai military court has dropped serious charges of insulting the King against Mr Sulak Sivaraksa, a well known academic and social critic, and two other men. There has been no official explanation of the decision but lawyers close to the case say that the instructions came from the top, possibly from the Prime Minister or even King Bhumibol himself (Neil Kelly writes).

Lawyers suggested that foreign interest in the case and concern for the trial, which began a month ago, was being held in secret may have influenced the decision to drop the charges.

Mr Sulak himself declined to comment.

Italian envoys in revolt over career prospects

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian presidency of the European Community which opens with the New Year threatens to start as most of the country's diplomats are in a state of discreet rebellion.

At the weekend the professional association which defends the interests of Italy's diplomats stated that 400 of them, including ambassadors in many leading foreign capitals, had sent telegrams or letters to Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, denouncing the "profound state of uneasiness in the diplomatic career".

The response so far involves more than half of the total of 700 Italian diplomats, of all categories. Their purpose is to stimulate Signor Andreotti into radically reforming his ministry. They have three demands.

The first is that the conduct of Italy's foreign policy be left to professional diplomats.

In such cases as the wine dispute within the European Community individual regions in Italy have been demanding a hand in making decisions.

The second is for a larger budget, so that the work of the ministry and its foreign missions can be modernized and made more efficient. The diplomats point out that their ministry's share of the national budget has dropped in a matter of a few years from 0.90 per cent to the present 0.27 per cent.

Lastly, they want to be better paid and ask their special requirements be taken into consideration, such as their children's education when they are serving abroad or their problems, when a house. They Rome, in finding a house. They point out that 300 posts in the service are vacant and young people have ceased to be interested in the diplomatic career. The entrance examination is difficult, but the incentives are few.

"What we need is an electronic typewriter."



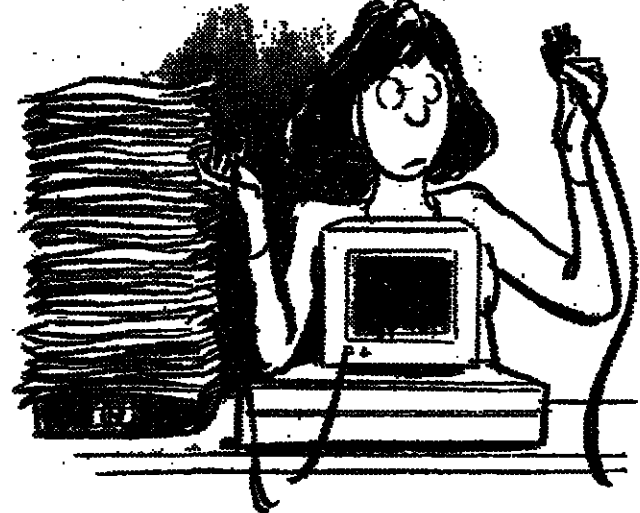
"What we need is a desk-top copier."



"What we need is a microcomputer."



"What we need is a compatible electronic printer."



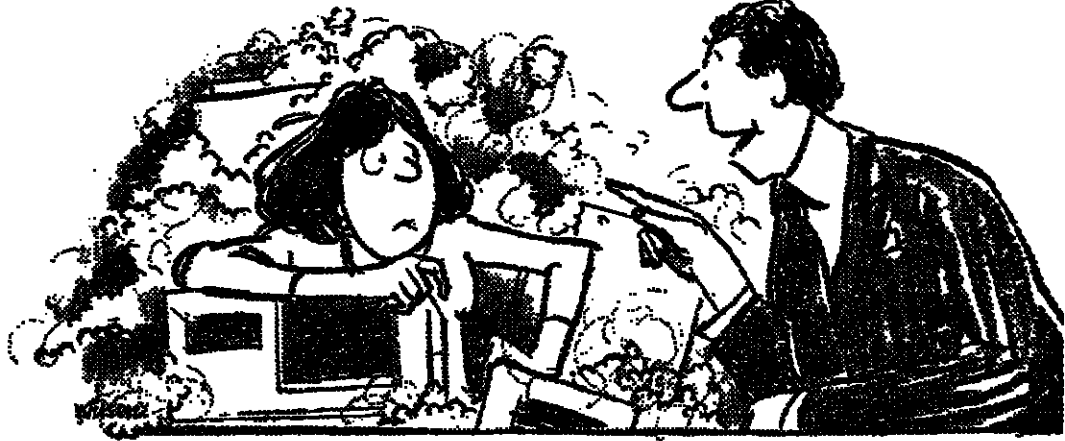
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The Australian election

Hawke bandwagon slips as voters confound polls and cut Labour majority

From Alan Hamilton
Sydney

Mr Bob Hawke's Labour party regained power as expected in Saturday's Australian general election, but with a significantly reduced majority which confounded the opinion polls.

It is only the second time in Australian history that a Labour Government has won a second, consecutive term in office, but the outcome is still a big disappointment for Mr Hawke, who was expected to increase his majority in the newly enlarged House of Representatives to about 43 seats.

In the event a swing to the Liberal-National coalition opposition of 1.5 per cent means that when counting is finally complete Mr Hawke will be left with an expected majority of between 14 and 16 seats in a house of 148 and a Senate in which minority parties continue to hold the balance of power.

Mr Hawke claimed yesterday he had "a comfortable and workable majority". He conceded that the Opposition's campaign against possible new taxes had had its effect and that the unusually long seven-week campaign had been a tactical error. He praised the "tenacious" campaign of the Opposition leader, Mr Andrew Peacock, for whom the result was a personal triumph.

"I believe the length of the campaign did not go to our advantage. Also, I did not make large and specific promises in my campaign. The negative attitude of the Opposition on superannuation and the assets test have had their effect," Mr Hawke said in explanation of his poor result.

The Prime Minister also claimed to have lost potential support because of the highest recorded "informal vote" - the equivalent of spoilt papers - in Australian history, at 6.9 per cent of the total cast in a



country where voting, in theory at least, is compulsory. Voters were confronted with a complex ballot paper which included a new voting method for the Senate, and which may have confused many into thinking that the voting system for the lower house had also changed.

The Australian Electoral Commission is to hold a post-mortem on the high invalid vote, which occurred in spite of extensive publicity on how the ballot paper should be filled in.

Labour failed to win any of the new seats created by the recent distribution. It lost votes in every state except Tasmania, where Labour support rose by 3.3 per cent. The only party to make substantial gains was the National Party in its home state of Queensland, where its support increased by 8 per cent, but chiefly at the expense of its Liberal coalition partner.

Mr Bill Hayden, Foreign Minister in the last Labour Government, admitted yesterday that the national result had been a failure for Labour. Mr Peacock, however, was jubilant: he made a significant impression in the last week of the campaign, and his position as leader of the Opposition has been made a great deal more secure.

Mr Peacock achieved his good showing despite two lead weights in his saddlebag: his still-regretted "little crook" remark to Mr Hawke, and having as a supposed ally the National Party leader, Mr Ian Sinclair, whose extreme views include blaming the Labour Government of the spread of Aids.

He also gained what is seen as an anti-bandwagon protest vote, a switch of voting intentions simply to prove wrong the polls which were almost unanimous in predicting an improvement in Mr Hawke's position.

Final counting for the Senate will still take some days, because of the need to distribute voters' preferences, but it is already clear that the new Nuclear Disarmament Party made a disappointing showing, although their candidate, Mr Peter Garrett, the Sydney rock singer, may still scrape home as a senator for New South Wales.

The final composition of the Senate is predicted to be 34 Labour, 33 Coalition, eight Democrats and two Independents.

Two constitutional changes on which the electorate were asked to vote on Saturday both fell: a proposal to make upper and lower house elections always simultaneous, and a plan to make federal and state government powers interchangeable.

Mr Hawke took what he thought was a safe gamble in calling a snap election after only 20 months in power. He has won himself an extra year in office, but with a seriously reduced majority and at great cost to his self-esteem.

HOW THEY STAND

With 86 per cent of the votes counted, the current state of the parties in the Australian House of Representatives is:

Labour	79	(75)
Liberal	44	(38)
National Party	21	(17)
Undecided	4	-

The composition of the enlarged Senate is:

Labour	34	(30)
Liberal and National Party	33	(28)
Australian Democrats	8	(9)
Independent	5	(1)
Undecided	3	-

(Not all Senate seats were contested)

Mile-long Madrid Nato protest

Madrid (Reuters) - About 35,000 people formed a human chain more than a mile long here yesterday to press for Spain's withdrawal from Nato and the removal of US military bases.

A total of 70,000 people

protested in Madrid, according to official estimates, but organizers put the crowd at half a million. Smaller rallies were held in Cadiz and Barcelona.

Speakers condemned the suspension, blamed by the network on technical problems,

of a programme on the protest which had been scheduled for showing on state television on Saturday night.

The demonstration was called by nearly 70 left wing organizations, including disarmament groups,

Kirkpatrick lashes out at enemies

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington

In a characteristically outspoken interview, Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the US representative at the United Nations, has strongly denounced the campaign of innuendo and character assassination which, she claims, has been directed at her by "anonymous" senior White House aides.

She makes it clear that this vendetta is one of the reasons why she intends to leave her present post at the end of this year and return to private life.

She also dismisses speculation that she might run for the Senate or seek the Presidency in 1988. "That's insane," she remarked when questioned about possible presidential ambitions.

The interview, conducted by Ms Lally Weymouth, a freelance writer, for the Los Angeles Times, deals mainly with the campaign which has been directed against her since she tried to take over the post of National Security Adviser last year.

Mrs Kirkpatrick denied that she was the extreme hardliner on foreign policy issues, particularly on Central America, that she is often depicted.

No highway: Kanak separatists man a road-block in the north of the island.

Rebel offer fails to stem chaos in New Caledonia

Noumea (Reuters) - Militant Kanaks yesterday offered to end the violence in their independence campaign for the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia, but the island remained in turmoil.

After Mr Jean-Marie Tjibaou made the offer, a small home-made bomb was thrown into the garden of his house here. No one was hurt.

Mr Tjibaou's offer was conditional on the release of 13 prisoners held on civil disorder charges since Kanaks began mounting road blockades two weeks ago, plunging rural areas into chaos.

The violence in New Caledonia erupted over elections to a new local assembly, which were won by a white-dominated party opposed to independence.

The Kanaks are the original Melanesian inhabitants of the territory but an influx of settlers from France and Pacific islands has reduced them to 43 per cent of the 145,000 population.

In making the peace offer, Mr Tjibaou said: "The objective of the disturbances was to open discussions." Given a favourable French response, the road blocks could be lifted by tomorrow, he said.

The territory was still tense yesterday particularly in the village of Thio on the east of the island. Like most other rural towns and villages outside Noumea, Thio is besieged by Kanaks.

Militants of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front, which swore in a "provisional government" on Saturday, threatened settlers at their homes in Thio yesterday and collected their weapons, residents said. Police said they faced several hundred Kanaks armed with guns and axes, but there was no violence.

At Mou on the east coast island of Iliou, Kanaks burnt down the house of Mr Dick Ukefwe in Paris to seek tougher action.

Two people, one Kanak and one European, have been killed in the violence, which began on November 18.

PARIS-France sent a special representative to New Caledonia yesterday to draw up plans for self-rule.

M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, said after an emergency Cabinet meeting that M Edgard Pisani, a European Community high commissioner, had been appointed to propose and implement measures concerning "the means under which the right to self-determination will be exercised".

M Pisani, who was briefed for 45 minutes by M Fabius yesterday morning, told reporters: "We will try to work out decisions... (to) ensure both communities an acceptable future. It will be a tremendous challenge and I know it will be difficult." The French envoy is expected in New Caledonia today.

Nunn steers for third chess place

Salonika (Reuters) - England beat Sweden 3½/2½ in a 12th-round chess match yesterday increasing their chances of coming third on the 14-round Olympiad behind the Soviet Union, who look certain to win, and the United States.

England's Jonathan Nunn scored an impressive victory over Ulf Andersson, a top world player, while Jonathan Mestel beat Lars Schneider and Murray Chandler managed a third English win against Arne Ornstein. Jonathan Speelman drew with Lars Karlsson.

Twelfth round results:
USSR 3½, France 2½, US 3½, Yugoslavia 1½, Hungary 1½, Romania 1½, England 3½, Sweden 2½, Australia 2½, China 2½, Israel 2½, Colombia 2½, Austria 2½, Czech 1½, West Germany 1½, US 1½, Poland 1½, Canada 1½, Bulgaria 1½, Finland 1½, Italy 1½.

Leading positions:
USSR 35, US 31½, Hungary 30½, Cuba 29½, Romania 28½, W Germany 28 (two games adjourned), Iran, Yugoslavia, Iceland 26.

Women's 12th round results:
USSR 2½, England 1½, Sweden 1½, Bulgaria 1½, Holland 1½, W Germany 1½, Romania 1½, Cuba 1½, China 1½, Hungary 1½, Poland 1½, US 1½, Switzerland 1½, Spain 1½, Yugoslavia 1½, Greece (A) 1½.

Leading positions:
USSR 28½, Romania 26½, Bulgaria 25 (one adj), W Germany 25½, England 25½, Poland 25½, Hungary 25½, Poland 25½, Sweden 25½, Cuba 25½, Brazil 25½.

Swiss say 'No' to wider rights for new parents

Zurich (Reuters) - The Swiss yesterday resoundingly rejected in a referendum a move to give new parents job security and extend maternity leave for pregnant women.

The initiative would have provided for either parent to take nine months off work after the birth of a child and receive partial wages with no fear of dismissal. With results in from 24 of 26 cantons, all had rejected the idea.

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Ethiopia accused of misusing famine aid

By Thomson Reuters
Growing concern about the Ethiopian Government's management of international famine relief has prompted one of the leading British aid organizations to seek talks with British Government and EEC officials later this week.

War on Want's general secretary, Mr George Galloway, has returned from three weeks in Ethiopia convinced that the emergency efforts by Western countries are being misused by Addis Ababa in its war against rebels in Eritrea.

"The case that Colonel Mengistu (the Ethiopian leader) is using British taxpayers' money to starve out rebel areas, indirectly to bomb innocent civilian targets in pursuit of his war aims and thereby to all the wheels of his bankrupt economy by selling food aid is overwhelming," Mr Galloway said yesterday.

The "ruthless military Government" of Ethiopia is "deliberately starving out whole areas of its country, paying its militia 120 kilos of Western grain a month and stepping up its bombing raids against civilians at a cost of £30,000 a sortie - enough to feed 3,000 people for a year", he said.

Mr Galloway said he and War on Want had been criticized by other charities for "rocking the boat", but he went on: "It is clear there comes a time when to pretend that the famine relief effort is going well is to render a disservice to those people in Ethiopia who are most in need."

Although he believed that aid by non-governmental organizations was reaching famine victims as intended, Mr Galloway said he was "deeply worried" that the massive

programmes launched by the EEC and the United States were being misused by the Ethiopian Government.

"I think it is strange that Western governments, including our own, seem so reluctant to state what they privately feel, that the Ethiopian Government is making a hash of the whole thing," he said.

"More and more people are coming back from Ethiopia with eye-witness accounts of what is going wrong, but it is odd that no criticism is coming from the West."

Mr Galloway said War on Want was campaigning for the setting up of an international commission to supervise and control the famine relief operations. He is seeking a meeting with Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, and with M Edgard Pisani, the French Minister in charge of the EEC's overseas aid later this week.

War on Want has close contacts with the famine relief wings of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, and has worked in Eritrea for more than 10 years.

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Arson ring started 219 fires in Boston area

BOSTON (Reuters) - The leader of what federal prosecutors called "the largest arson ring in US history" was found guilty for his part in setting 219 fires in the greater Boston area between 1982 and 1984.

Donald Stackpole, aged 28, could face prison sentences totalling 195 years in jail for his role in fires which caused a total of £18.3 million in damages and left 282 people injured, including 65 firemen.

Federal prosecutors had dubbed the arsonist the "Proposition 2½ ring" after a statewide tax-cutting measure, because some of them were ex-firemen who allegedly caused the fires in an effort to regain their jobs, eliminated by budget cuts.

Czechs detain friars and nun

Vienna (Reuters) - Czechoslovak police have detained two Franciscan friars and a nun after a swoop in which seven members of the order were taken in for questioning. They could face criminal charges of undermining supervision of church activities by the state, according to the Austrian Kathpress agency.

Ex-boxer dies

Mayen, West Germany (AFP) - The former European lightweight and light welterweight boxing champion, Conny Rudhof, died here of a brain haemorrhage at 50. He collapsed at home 10 days ago and never recovered consciousness.

Conny Rudhof, 50, was a former European champion in the lightweight and light welterweight divisions. He had a record of 44 wins and 10 losses.

He was born in 1934 in Mayen, West Germany. He was a member of the German national team and represented his country at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome.

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Arson ring started 219 fires in Boston area

BOSTON (Reuters) - A ring of what federal prosecutors called "the largest arson ring in US history" was broken in the greater Boston area between 1982 and 1984. Donald Stackpole, aged 34, had face prison sentences in fires which caused a total of \$18.3 million in damage and 282 people injured, including 65 firemen. Federal prosecutors indicted the arsonist, the "Boston 219 ring", after a nationwide tax-cutting measure caused some of them were men who allegedly caused fires in an effort to regain jobs, eliminated by budget cuts.

zechs detain friars and nuns

Vienna (Reuters) - Czech police have detained two Austrian friars and a nun in a sweep in which several members of the order were taken in for questioning. They face criminal charges of undermining supervision of church activities by the state, according to the Austrian press agency.

boxer dies

Wien, West Germany (Reuters) - The former European weight and light welterweight boxing champion, Rudy Rupp, died here of a heart attack at the age of 50. He had been ill for several days after recovering from a heart attack.

rlin shooting

East Berlin (Reuters) - East German border guards shot a person attempting to cross the border into West Berlin with a rifle. The person was killed. The body was found in the East German capital. The person was a woman. Her name was not disclosed.

tal crash

London (Reuters) - A British C-130 Hercules transport plane crashed on a runway in a small town in the north of England. The plane was carrying 20 people. The crash caused the death of one person. The plane was on its final approach to the runway.

anel opens

Rome (Reuters) - The Italian Prime Minister, Ciriaco De Mita, opened a tunnel through the Apennine mountains. The tunnel was 11.5 km long. It was the longest tunnel in the world. The tunnel was built by the Italian government.

rsica murder

London (Reuters) - A woman was killed in a murder in London. The woman was 45 years old. She was killed by a man who was 30 years old. The man was charged with the murder. The woman was a teacher.

ncert riot

London (Reuters) - A riot broke out at a concert in London. The riot was caused by a fight between two people. The riot lasted for several minutes. The police were called to the scene. The riot was dispersed.

medy visit

London (Reuters) - A woman was killed in a murder in London. The woman was 45 years old. She was killed by a man who was 30 years old. The man was charged with the murder. The woman was a teacher.

ly arrests

London (Reuters) - A woman was killed in a murder in London. The woman was 45 years old. She was killed by a man who was 30 years old. The man was charged with the murder. The woman was a teacher.

rel ended

London (Reuters) - A woman was killed in a murder in London. The woman was 45 years old. She was killed by a man who was 30 years old. The man was charged with the murder. The woman was a teacher.

ney bomb

London (Reuters) - A woman was killed in a murder in London. The woman was 45 years old. She was killed by a man who was 30 years old. The man was charged with the murder. The woman was a teacher.

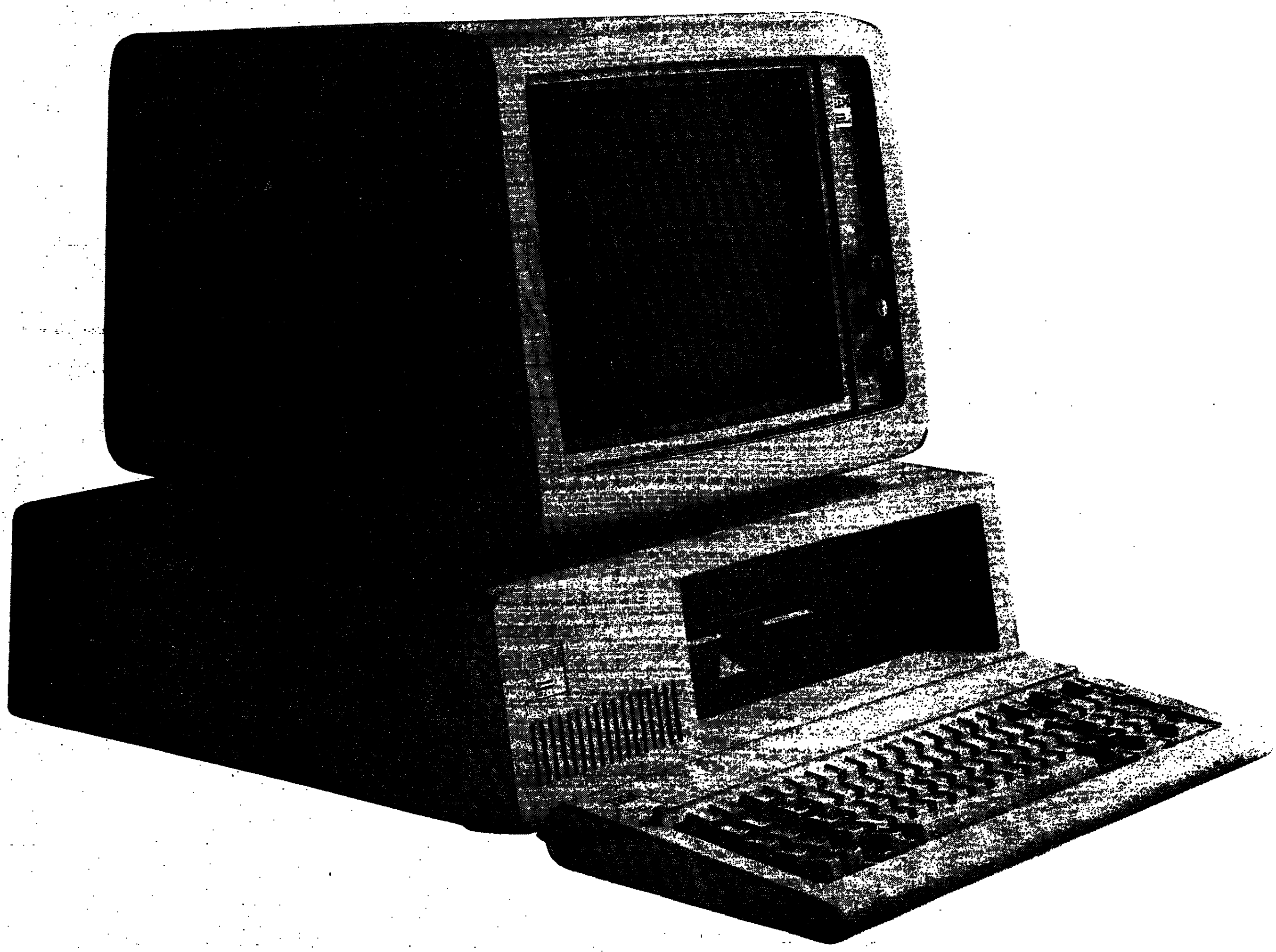
oe thieves

London (Reuters) - A woman was killed in a murder in London. The woman was 45 years old. She was killed by a man who was 30 years old. The man was charged with the murder. The woman was a teacher.

correction

London (Reuters) - A woman was killed in a murder in London. The woman was 45 years old. She was killed by a man who was 30 years old. The man was charged with the murder. The woman was a teacher.

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*Based on published NCC data for the period January-October 1984.

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IBM

SPECTRUM I

Nailing all those big lies

Today we present a further selection of common fallacies, together with scientific disproof of each one.

It's a long road that has no turning.

The long roads have the most turnings. The M1 goes on for hours and hours, twisting and turning. Short roads, on the other hand, are usually absolutely straight, especially just off Oxford Street where they are also one-way and full of cars parked on the pavement, the roads themselves are full of men wheeling racks of new dresses along.

A more accurate version of this proverb would be "It's a long road that has no service area", or "It's a long road when the emergency phones aren't working".

A stitch in time saves nine.

No a stitch in Time stops the pages falling out.

The Great Wall of China is the only man-made object visible from the moon.

Not according to Simon Blag-forth, science master at St Wynkyn's, near Bedford, who claims that the giant reflector made by the upper sixth is also visible from the Moon. That, in fact, was the sole purpose of building the reflector - to be visible from the Moon - and the huge saucer is designed to focus the Sun's rays on the Moon.

"It's a bit like the effect you get at pop concerts when the lights reflect off a shiny bit of

moreover...
Miles Kingston

the guitar, or off the guitarist's wristwatch, and you get this one very bright spot of light in the audience - usually in my eyes, actually. Because our reflector is focused on the Moon, it doesn't show up on satellite photos. Occasionally you can see something very bright in the London area, but we think this is the roof of TV-am building."

And what is the scientific purpose of the reflector?
"Absolutely none. We just want to get into the Guinness Book of Records."

Christmas comes but once a year.

Christmas comes about 14 times a year - at least, there are about a fortnight of days off round about Christmas.

Interestingly, this means that Christmas is getting more and more like its pagan forerunner, when the ancient tribes of Britain used to take the whole of December, January and February off.

East is East and West is West.

Not according to the Chinese, who think of the USA as the East, and Americans as the Orientals. America's difficulties with foreign relations have been ascribed to their persistence in calling Japan and China the Far East, whereas they are just across the sea to the west.

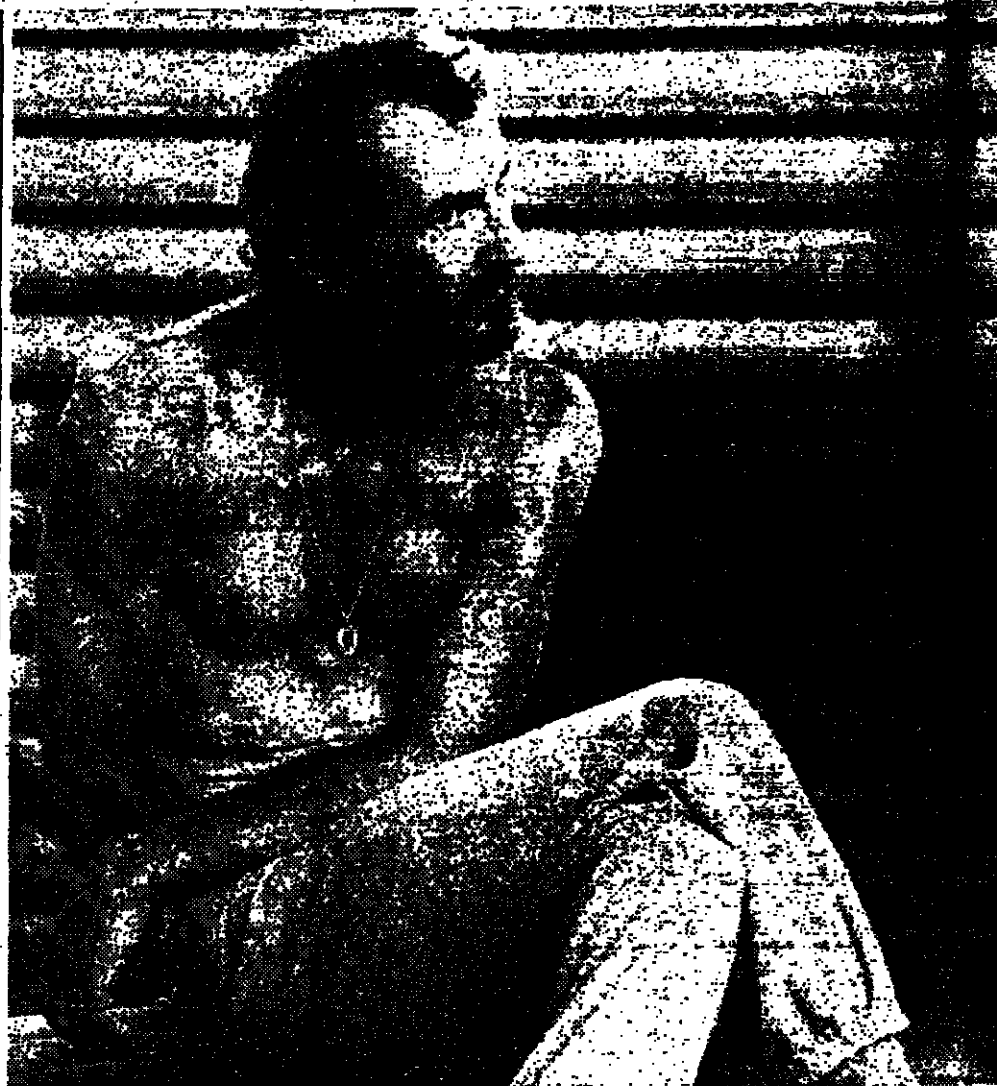
Australians are even worse off, since they have nothing to the east or west of them but cannot bring themselves to call China the Far North.

No man is an island

Mr Justin Cartwright, formerly of Esher, is an island - at least, he has registered himself as an island for tax purposes. To do this, he had to emigrate to the West Indies and take up residence just off-shore from Antigua, where he spends half the day on a raft moored two miles out.

"I reckon that six hours a day is enough to qualify me as an island", he says. "There are some genuine islands that are submerged for 20 hours a day by the tides, so I think I can claim to be an island. I now pay no tax at all, and can offer the same facility to anyone who wishes to reside on me, or at least to take out nationality papers and become an honorary resident of Cartwright Island. I myself, of course, cannot become a resident because I am the island."

"Life on me is very pleasant - it's warm and the postman comes out once a day. I am working on my flag and national anthem at the moment. After that, membership of the United Nations, I suppose. But not Unesco. Definitely not Unesco." The child is father to the man. True or not, this statement is now illegal. It should read: "The junior citizen is parent to the person."



Ivan Vaughan: Waging a brave fight against Parkinson's disease

Dr Jonathan Miller's remarkable

Portrait of at war

For the past two years 50-year-old Dr Jonathan Miller has been engaged for three days a week at Sussex University, as happily as any self-doubting brilliant all-rounder can be. He is a research fellow in neuro-psychology, having forsaken with some disillusion what appeared to be a highly successful career in the classic theatre and opera.

"I got pushed on the shelf, like other directors and producers of my age. Covent Garden doesn't ask me to do anything - I don't know why. I had a row with Peter Hall, so I can't work at Glyndebourne or the National Theatre. And I am not part of that very small, extremely possessive group of young men at the RSC who are damned if they are going to let in somebody from outside. As I don't want to end up teaching mime at Ohio State University, which is the fate of old English directors, I was forced to diversify."

One of the fruits of his diversification is a remarkable film to be shown on television tonight (Horizon, BBC 2) about the daily life of Ivan Vaughan, a lecturer in educational psychology who at the age of 42 has Parkinson's disease. Miller has succeeded, perhaps for the first time on television, in showing the humorous side of such a melancholy disability, as well as

the effort required for such mundane tasks as picking up a teaspoon.

"It was pure curiosity. You can have an amused, honest relationship with a person where you say, 'I'm sorry about your illness, but it's extremely interesting and will you please tell me what it's like to have the shakes all the time, and to brush your teeth if your hand doesn't stay still?'"

"There's very narrow, practical details are a neglected side to medicine", says Miller. "Ivan and I decided there would be no compassion, no sentimental stuff about human beings under affliction, no praise of endurance and no bleeding hearts."

Seven years ago, when Ivan was an energetic man with a successful career, vivacious wife, Jan, and two children, Justin, then 11, and nine-year-old Sophie, he noticed a slight involuntary movement in the little finger of his left hand.

A few months later, as he gradually lost control of his whole hand, the shattering and unexpected diagnosis was made. "Don't worry", he told Jan, "I'll fight and get it over it." They live in Cambridge where Ivan still lectures for two terms out of three and spends the rest of the time "researching" his illness. He had swallowed a tablet of the so-called "miracle" drug L-dopa,

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research:
CLIMATOLOGY

Taking the sea's temperature

In recent years a cold, dark, little-known area of the world has been devoted to estimating the trend in global sea surface temperatures. Such measurements are vital for many conclusions about the overall trend in global temperatures.

In the days of sail, measurements were taken by the simple expedient of throwing a bucket over the side and measuring the temperature of the sample collected. At the time of the Second World War there was a switch to observing the temperature of the engine in-take cooling water, but, recently researchers have returned to insulated buckets.

Studies at the Meteorological Office have now resulted in the

publication of a corrected estimate of the trend of global sea surface temperatures from 1851 to 1981, drawing on 46 million observations of sea temperatures and 24 million observations of night-time air temperatures at sea.

They show that temperatures between the 1850s and 1970s were generally stable, but since 1970 they have risen globally by about 0.6°C in a cold period between 1905 and 1910, and rose a little above current values in the 1940s.

These changes are of a similar size and almost in phase with the best observations since 1900, but are markedly warmer than those in the 19th century. They provide important confirmation of global temperature trends during the past 80 years, but raise intriguing questions about the cause of the overall fluctuation, given the unexpected warmth before 1900.

Satellite on Sahel

One of the worrying features about the recurrence of drought in sub-Saharan Africa (the Sahel) is that it appears to support the thesis that the advancing desert will lead to a permanent shift in the climate.

Computer models have indicated that once the vegetative cover is removed, exposed sand will reflect more sunlight, reducing the amount of rainfall and preventing the regeneration of vegetation.

A group with EUM in Paris have examined satellite images of the Sahel from both the period of maximum drought in the early 1970s and the slightly wetter periods around 1979. These pictures show that in certain areas the vegetation cover recovered, countering earlier desertification.

River changes

Concern is being voiced about the climatic impact of the Soviet proposal to divert a number of major Siberian rivers which flow into the Arctic Ocean, southwards to irrigate the arid regions of Central Asia. It is argued that the reduction of the input of fresh water will reduce the ice cover and alter the horizontal and vertical circulation of the ocean.

A computer model of the Arctic Ocean developed at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, has been used to investigate these claims.

First results suggest that the planned diversion of about a quarter of the run-off from the Ob, Yenisei, Lena and Pechora rivers would have no appreciable effect. The simulation, which modelled the effects for 80 years, found that the total diversion of the rivers did not produce large climatic consequences.

The investigators emphasize that these are preliminary results. More work is needed to model seasonal effects.

Wind and waves

Satellites with radar altimeters have been used for several years to measure undulations in the height of sea surface.

Analysis of data obtained from the satellite GEOS-3 over four years confirms such measurements can be made on a regular basis to add valuable information about seasonal patterns of wind and waves.

Results show many features well-known to mariners and interesting variations between the seasons.

This is the first time such seasonal measurements have been made on a global scale. If carried out on a regular basis, they hold the key to improving weather forecasting and gaining a better understanding of the way winds drive ocean currents.

Weather wise

The longest homogenous monthly temperature record in the world is that for Central England. Prepared by the late Professor Manley, using instrumental observations and descriptions of weather conditions, it stretches back to 1659. From the mid-18th century the figures are reliable, but earlier estimates rely on sparse data.

A recent example of new information is the diary of Sir John Witternunge (Weather, March 1984). The Lord of Rothamstead Manor in Hertfordshire kept a daily record of the weather from late January 1684 to March 1689. This information confirms that weather in the late 17th century was remarkably variable, with severe winters and blazing summers.

For the most part, the observations confirm the figures produced by Manley but in a few instances they suggest some adjustments are needed.

W. J. Burroughs

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SPECTRUM II

film on the effects of Parkinson's disease

a brave man with his body

half an hour before I arrived. "It is a race against time. I have to relax in order to get it synthesized inside the brain," he said.

It seemed to be working. His movements were only moderately jerky, and his voice was strong, although high pitched. He spoke lucidly about what he was doing, but there was already the eerie feeling that he was a divided personality: one part of him was concentrating rationally on the irrational effect the drug was having on other parts.

He sat back in his chair, closed his eyes and muttered some gibberish. "Dum, dum, one, two, three, dum, dum, four, five, six." Then he smiled and said: "Stay for a few hours and you will see what happens as it begins to wear off. I will be helpless and out of control. No heroics, though."

The transformation, both mentally and physically, was to be phenomenal.

interest and a hobby. It was an easy decision to make.

He felt that patients were under too much pressure. They were encouraged to take L-dopa all the time either in order to keep a job or from relatives and hard-pressed doctors who thought it would solve all problems. So he contacted Jonathan Miller.

"I heard this thing, voice and assumed he was an old, seer sort of figure who was boring me with his insistence that he was interested," says Miller.

"Finally I agreed to see him. It soon became apparent that he was something extraordinary - partly because he was so much younger than most people who get the disease and partly because he had actually turned himself into an object of study and had made his disease an affliction rather than an affliction."

"The image that kept occurring to me was Robinson Crusoe, marooned on his own island, eager to map it and master it in great detail and to show visitors around. The thing about disabling illnesses is that people do feel they are alone and it is very easy to go mad in isolation."

He spent a week with Ivan making the film which illustrates the remarkable effects of L-dopa, but also the battle Ivan has to keep off the drug.

that it sounded like sails in a storm.

"It's your problem now," he said. "You have to sit there while I tremble on. I am not supposed to be able to control it, but I will show you how it's done."

Sweat poured down his face and soaked his back. He concentrated, deeply and remained silent.

"I have to exclude everything from consciousness. Once I speak I will start to tremble because I am subtracting from my available resources. Many people might be horrified to see themselves in this condition. I have been cheered off, but I just refocus on the good things. My only regrets are that I never went to India and didn't finish my PhD."

"Do you see the contrast between my state now and how I greeted you?" he asked wryly. "It does become progressively worse, but death doesn't worry me at all. It is not likely to occur very much earlier than if I didn't have Parkinson's. I want to study this disease for as long as I can. All I need is funds. And time."

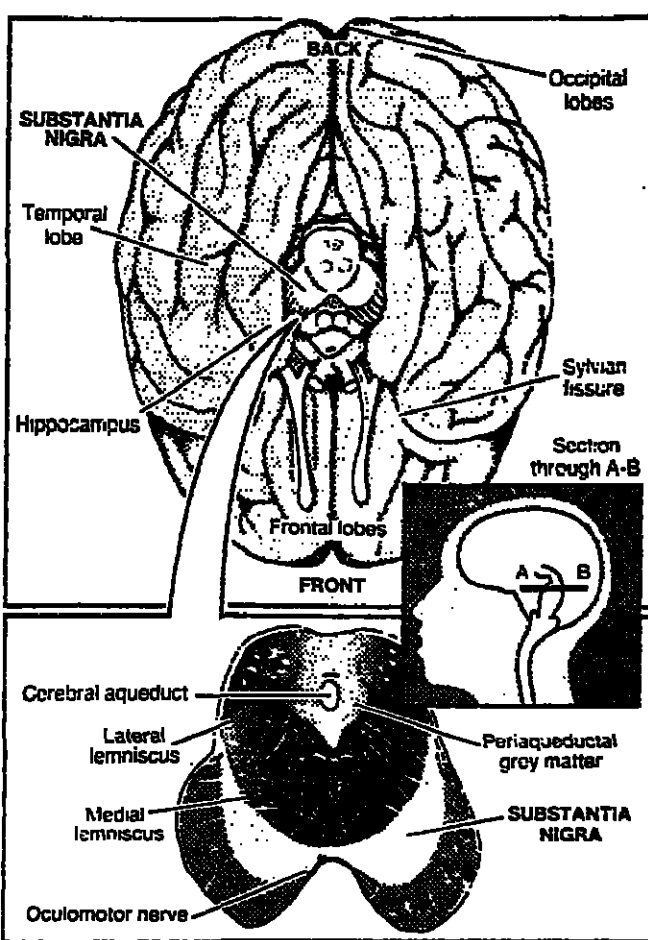
He lapsed into silence. The only sound was the ticking of the clock. Jan moved his hands palms upwards, to help him relax, and he sank back in his chair, closed his eyes, and smiled.

"I wish we could have made a longer film to bring out more of Ivan's thoughts," says Miller. "The bother is what you never have enough time. I know there is a danger of voyeurism in this sort of thing - and some patients would think it is an impudence - but there are many others for whom their illness is not just a tragedy but a dilemma: they are eager to exhibit to an interested bystander."

He is, as ever, resigned to the possibility that television critics may not share his view. "One sometimes has the feeling that making a film is rather like taking a long time to construct a Fabergé egg, only then to roll it over so daintily under the door of a pigsty."

Andrew Duncan

Dr Jonathan Miller with Ivan after an exercise session



The section of the brain affected by Parkinson's disease

"I felt a sense of shame. However much you know you are not responsible there is a feeling you went wrong and mismanaged your life."

Jan came into the room occasionally to see how he was. "It was ironic when Ivan first became ill because he had always been concerned about fitness," she said. "We had to adjust, totally to the implications which were enormous. At first it was an incredible shock and I was very frightened. The immediate, misplaced reaction is to imagine what will happen over a period of time and to think, 'I won't be able to cope'. It takes a long while to realize that you only have to cope from day to day."

"I found it particularly difficult because Ivan didn't want to tell anyone. Our friends began to get very concerned and some drew their own conclusions - the marriage was breaking up, he was on drugs, or drunk too much. I had to keep telling them, 'No, he's fine' and that was very tough. Once everyone knew, the whole thing became much more manageable."

For 18 months, Ivan refused medication. "I got into a rock bottom state and it was a little unfair on Jan. I didn't mind if people thought I was a joke, so long as they didn't know I had Parkinson's disease."

"The illness gives all the symptoms of a person who has totally collapsed. We shake and tremble and signal to the world, 'Don't fight me any more. I give in. I am a nonentity. All my prowess is dissipated. I'm the opposite of a bouncing conversationalist. I am a person with shaking limbs whose voice is a boring monotone and who cannot talk in a coherent fashion. Just leave me alone to shake and wither away."

"I felt a sense of shame. However much you know objectively and intellectually that you are almost certainly not responsible for the illness, there is a constant feeling that you went wrong somewhere and mismanaged your life."

Ivan was born and brought up in Liverpool and was a founder member of the Swinging Sixties philosophy. He was at school with Paul McCartney, grew up with John Lennon, and the two met for the first time at his house. "I've often wondered if I over-taxed the cells where dopamine is created," he says. "I have a whole range of speculation about why this happened to me."

"Maybe it is a sort of flu virus; I used to drink, make love, play squash and be in a state of high fever. I went without sleep - all these things together could have an effect, but I have no bitterness. At first I didn't react to it as fate because I wanted to question and fight it and search out what the hell had gone on. I soon realized I could either hide away and pretend I wasn't ill or turn it into an

ordinarily, Ivan takes the drug intermittently and tries to leave his first dose until as late as possible in the morning. On waking there is the tortuous business of dressing - putting on a sock is a mammoth task - followed by an extraordinary six mile run, which is shown in the film. Then he showers and has breakfast, usually porridge mixed with ice cream.

"The challenges I had in the past are no less than the ones I have now. Eating a bowl of porridge may be a great achievement today, but before that it was winning a game of squash."

"Now I have a choice of what I can do, write letters, make emotional charged telephone calls, go to the zoo, make love or have an argument. All will dissipate my resources. It is very important to me to have a routine before I take the drug. After that, with a bit of self deception which boosts the achievement in my mind, I am

quite happy to sit for the rest of the day listening to music or reading.

"I have been very lucky in my personal circumstances. I don't think it has had any effect whatsoever on the children. We joke about it, without being sloppy, and they can focus on the times when I have reasonable control."

"I have a splendid relationship with Jan although she is sometimes reluctant to go along with my approach, particularly when I hold out with great determination against taking drugs. She really falls all over the house. The role she plays is just being herself, continuing with her job (as a French teacher) and with the activities we did in the past. She has been tremendous in keeping alive our going to the cinema together - often under considerable difficulties if I am trembling."

"It has taken a number of years for me to be willing to lose control in public. That is quite an occasion and it happened last week in Marks & Spencer when I was shopping."

"People watch and I often want to tell them not to be alarmed. I suspect they think I'm a raving madman."

His breathing was now heavier and his voice less strong. In a while, his hands began to flap and soon the movement became so severe

Frederick Forsyth is a member of that very exclusive group of authors whose books you will find on sale in virtually every country you care to visit.

And not only on sale but, year in year out, proving to be enduringly popular.

Classics of their kind.

Yet Forsyth's beginnings as an author were scarcely auspicious. The first four publishers to read his first manuscript turned it down.

Decisions they must, years later, be still deeply regretting as that book is regarded with awe by the publishing industry.

"The Day of the Jackal" made Forsyth one of the world's best-selling authors. Three more novels followed: "The Odessa File," "The Dogs of War" and "The Devil's Alternative." Each proved to be a phenomenal success in thirty-six countries. They have been translated into some thirty languages, and sold over 20 million copies.

Since then he has written two more books. "No Comebacks," a collection of short stories, and, most recently, "The Fourth Protocol," a new novel in the classic Forsyth tradition.



Forsyth's concern has always been quality rather than quantity.

Just six books have hardly been a prolific output - read one and you will realise why.

The Forsyth style - a blend of uncannily authentic detail, superb storytelling, a meticulously constructed plot - takes a long, long time.

Despite many attempts it is a style no other has been able to reproduce.

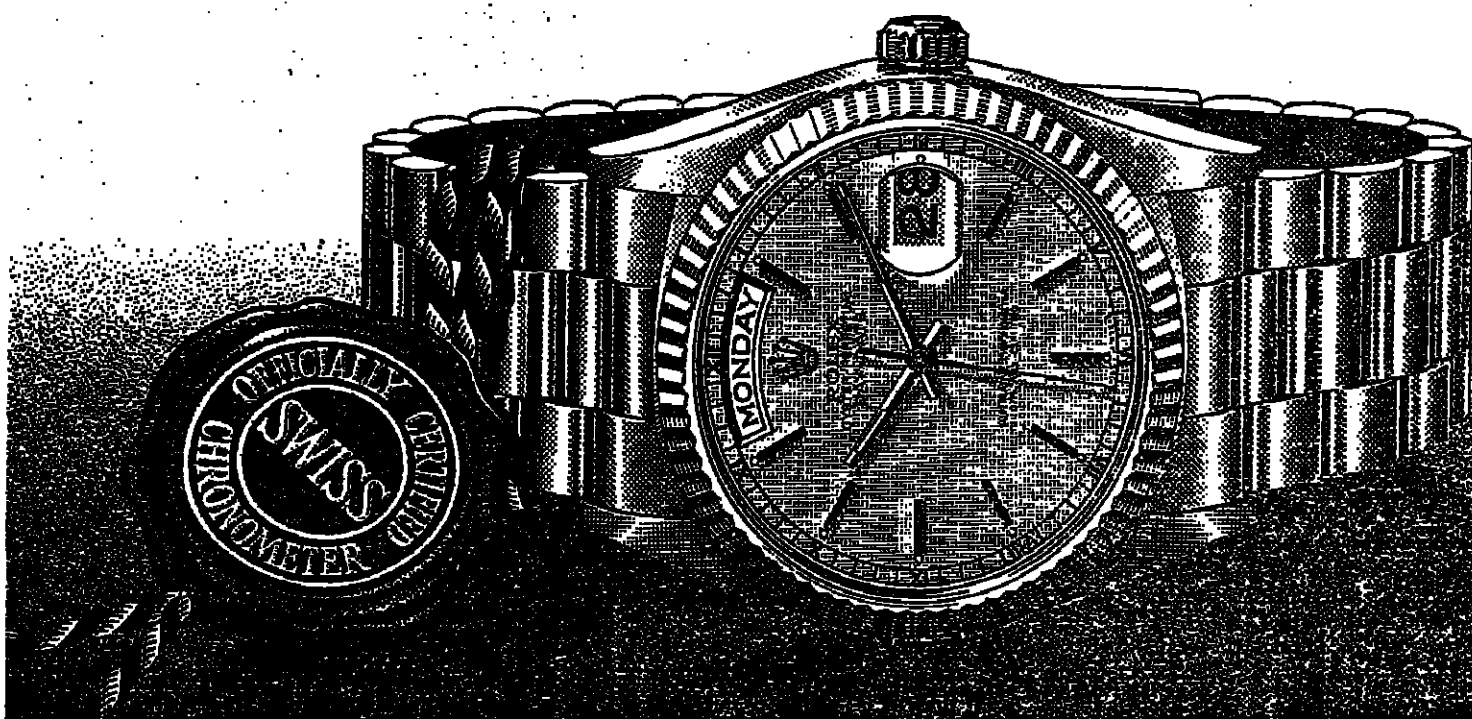
Quality is also the principle behind the watch that Frederick Forsyth wears. A Rolex Oyster Day-Date Chronometer in 18ct. gold.

"For me, this is simply the best watch there is," Forsyth says. "It's very tough, waterproof, and completely reliable so I never have to take it off whatever I'm doing."

"It's also very well designed and obviously a great deal of time, care and effort have gone into its construction. That's why the idea works so supremely well."

And, as Frederick Forsyth knows, a famous, international success starts with a perfect idea.

ROLEX
of Geneva



Pictured: The Rolex Day-Date Chronometer in 18ct. gold, with matching bracelet.

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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 511)

- ACROSS
- 1 Scots games pole (5)
 - 4 American landowner (7)
 - 8 Carrying boards (5)
 - 9 Jewish language (7)
 - 10 Unwieldy (8)
 - 11 Stopping command (4)
 - 13 Septillion (11)
 - 17 Red corundum (4)
 - 18 Baker's dozen (8)
 - 21 Fire noise (7)
 - 22 Blackbird (5)
 - 23 Sword cases (7)
 - 24 Slender stalk (5)

- DOWN
- 1 Delete (3,3)
 - 2 Indian hemp (5)
 - 3 Annals (8)
 - 4 Regal title (5,8)
 - 5 Branch point (4)
 - 6 Tired exclamation (5,2)
 - 7 Warm up (6)
 - 12 Illustrious (8)
 - 14 Offence (7)
 - 15 Dresses (6)
 - 16 Deer horn (6)
 - 19 Come next (5)
 - 20 Satirical sketch (4)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

MONDAY PAGE



House-hunting in Covent Garden for dolls, children and grown ups

Small and perfectly formed

People are paying from £28 to £1,600 for dolls' houses

Lee Rodwell reports on this mini-property boom

There is a certain amount of snobbery attached to buying a dolls' house. Shops selling toys - from Tesco to Harrods - all offer modern, plastic self-assembled homes such as Sindy's Super Home at prices ranging from £27.99 for a two-storey house with a lift and roof garden.

But while countless little girls would be only too happy to get one of these from Father Christmas - and according to Pedigree tens of thousands have already been sold - many parents, particularly those reared on Beatrix Potter, hanker after something with a little more class.

Dolls' houses, like teddy bears and rocking horses, have never really gone out of fashion although the large toy manufacturers say that interest in the traditional dolls' house has waned as the trend for the fashion doll - the likes of Sindy and her clones - has spread. But such is the current interest in hand-made wooden houses that a number of small businesses are doing very nicely.

Even Sir Terence Conran must feel there is a gap in the market - for the first time

Mothercare is selling a four-room wooden house with a red roof and white walls, which comes in kit form for £29.99.

Of course, Mothercare's Home Sweet Home pales by comparison with the splendours of Georgian House: six rooms all with fireplaces and panelled doors, moulded skirtings and cornices, a staircase with turned banisters and a newel post, stained and varnished floors, a brass letterbox and a lion's head knocker on the front door.

The only snag is that you might need a second mortgage to pay for it - it costs around £1,250.

To be fair, Georgian House is a specially detailed model produced for the serious collector rather than the child, and is in Peter Hunt's Stately Little Homes range.

For children his company, Perfect Miniatures, makes basic wooden houses with plain interiors in the Home Sweet Little Home range, in which

prices start at £60 for a one-up-one-down "artisan's cottage" called Inkerman Terrace.

For parents who feel able to tackle the task of building a dolls' house from a kit, or who want to involve the whole family in the project, The Dolls' House Emporium offers a range of possibilities.

Adam Puser, who trained as an architect, began building and designing dolls' houses in 1969, but has run his emporium full-time for the past three years.

His most popular line is the three-storey Classical Dolls' House kit "with columns and a portico" for £49, although he obviously has a soft spot for St George's Hill, which sells for £185 in kit form or for £1,600 when built and decorated.

"When the sides are opened up it is 6ft long and like a slice of drama, a miniature stage set."

Certainly when it comes to traditional dolls' houses - from artisan's cottage to nobleman's mansion - nostalgia is the name

of the game. Olivia Bristol, consultant for dolls and dolls' houses for Christie's, finds it all rather amusing. She points out that some wonderful bargains can be had at local auctions.

She says: "If you are lucky you can pick up a 1930s Triang house for under £10 - certainly for between £40 and £50. And after all isn't it much nicer to buy a 1940s or 1950s home that looks like the period it was made in than a modern neo-Georgian trying to look old?"

Perhaps the ultimate in dolls' house one-upmanship is to design and build your own, although you may find the project takes longer than you imagine.

Fashion photographer David Barnes started to collect little items of furniture for his daughter Freire when she was three. She is now seven. He started to build the house last year, for Christmas. He is still building.

He says: "It's about 4ft high,

with three rooms on each of the three floors, but I'm now thinking about extending on to the back and building a garage. And I've still got to wire it for electricity."

Dolls' houses, it seems, provide as much fun for adults as they do for children.

Michael Morse, who runs the Dolls' House shop in Covent Garden, admits that although they sell to all ages the biggest market is selling to older people. "It's a nice escapism hobby. People get very involved with their houses."

"When they order dolls, for instance, they say things like 'I want one with dark hair and her name will be Louise'. One couple always wanted a real Tudor country cottage but they couldn't afford it - so they bought a miniature one instead."

Perhaps that is the key. Perhaps, when we set out to buy a dolls' house for our children, what we are really looking for is not just a toy, not even something that may one day become a family heirloom, but a miniature replica of the kind of house we'd like to be living in, if only we could afford it.

Today in the House of Lords a patient challenges the maxim: doctor knows best

Suitable case for telling the truth

How much does a doctor have to tell a patient about the risks attached to an operation or treatment?

That question, with its far-reaching implications for patients' rights, will be posed to the House of Lords today, when Mrs Sidaway's case reaches the highest court in the land, ten years after an operation which went disastrously wrong and left her severely disabled.

In 1973 Mrs Sidaway was a fit and active 63, working as a filing clerk. The operation, intended to relieve pain in her neck and shoulder, damaged her spinal cord and left her right side partly paralysed.

She sued the surgeon, Mr Murray Falconer of the Maudsley Hospital, London, for negligence. Her complaint was not that the operation was incompetently done, but that she was not properly warned about the possible complications.

Mr Falconer died before the case reached the High Court in 1982, but the judge accepted the evidence of the surgeon's colleagues that his practice when undertaking this particular operation was to warn patients about the possibility of harming the nerve root, but not of the slightly smaller risk - less than one per cent - of damaging the spinal cord.

In the High Court, Mrs Sidaway lost her case. Other neurosurgeons told the judge they would not necessarily have warned about the chance of paralysis. Therefore, the judge ruled, Mr Falconer could not be considered negligent, since he was following accepted medical practice. In effect, the ruling left it up to the medical profession to decide what a patient should be told.

Last February Mrs Sidaway lost round two of her fight for compensation, when the Court of Appeal dismissed her appeal. If, as medical lawyers fear, she fares no better in the hands of the law lords, where will that leave patients and doctors?

As Lord Justice Dunn declared in delivering judgment, the American doctrine of "informed consent", which gives patients in the US and Canada the right to determine what happens to their bodies, "forms no part of English law".

A doctor won't have to disclose every risk involved in an operation or treatment, said the Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson. He will only have to give whatever information is reasonable to enable a patient to make a rational choice whether or not to accept his recommendation. The fact that a patient asks to be told everything won't necessarily mean he really wants to know.

The result seems to come down to "doctor knows best". The Court of Appeal decided that the risk of spinal cord damage was too remote to warn Mrs Sidaway about, even though the judges accepted that, if she'd known of the risk, her reaction would have been, in her words, to "put her coat on and come home".

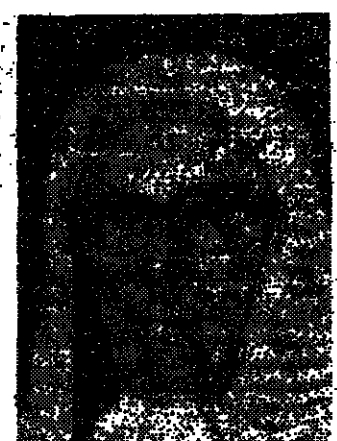
But does doctor know best when it comes to deciding what to tell? For those trained 15 or 20 years ago, before the medical schools started stressing patient interviewing skills, communication may not be a strong point.

As a seven-doctor working party set up by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trusts admits in its booklet *Talking with Patients*: "Some doctors still think it is bad for patients to know too much about their illnesses. 'Good' patients do what they are told without question; 'troublesome' patients pester and question doctors and their colleagues in a way that seems to undermine medical respect and confidence."

There are undoubtedly still patients who prefer to close their eyes and leave everything

to the doctor, though the evidence casts doubt on Lord Justice Dunn's assertion that most patients "prefer to put themselves unreservedly in the hands of their doctors".

Recent studies show that most patients want more information than doctors are prepared to give them. In one survey, 57 per cent of patients discharged from hospital reported dissatisfaction with the information they had received during their stay. "Again and again patients complain to us that they were simply kept in the dark about what was happening to them", says Arnold Simandowitz, Director of Action for the Victims of Medical Accidents.



'A doctor won't have to disclose every risk involved in an operation'
Sir John Donaldson
Master of the Rolls

The issue is confused by the fact that there is one group of patients who, as often as not, would prefer to be kept in the dark: those with terminal illnesses.

In a study by a Kent doctor, John Spencer Jones, in which patients were given the choice of receiving a truthful answer about their diagnosis or just not asking, half the patients suffering from a normally fatal form of cancer simply didn't ask.

But half did ask, and even when there isn't much they can do about it, many patients resent not being kept fully in the picture.

"I would like to see the House of Lords decide that doctors should disclose whatever risks and alternatives a reasonable patient, given this patient's circumstances, would consider significant in reaching a decision," says Ian Kennedy, Professor of Medical Law and Ethics at King's College, London. The alternatives need to be explained as well as the risks: a woman with breast cancer needs to know not only about the risks and consequences of radical mastectomy, but also about chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and lumpectomy.

The Appeal Court judges seem to have been influenced by fears that a ruling in Mrs Sidaway's favour could damage the doctor-patient relationship and open the floodgates to a rash of medical negligence claims.

Ian Kennedy argues that "the ruling against her will damage good medical practice, which now ought to be seen as a partnership of shared decision-making between patient and doctor".

And the "floodgates" argument can in his view be discounted: "In the US, the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine has considered the evidence and found that informed consent cases form a very small part of malpractice litigation. A national survey of claims in 1975-76 showed that it was raised as an issue in only three per cent of cases."

Clare Dyer

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THE GOVERNMENT'S ABOLITION BILL: MORE CON THAN CONVINCE

Today and tomorrow, M.P.s in the Commons are debating the Government's controversial Bill to abolish the six metropolitan county councils.

Introducing it last week, Local Government Minister Kenneth Baker proclaimed: "The Bill will bring about major improvements in local government in our great cities. It will mean that local government will be more local, more accessible, more economical and more accountable."

If such claims are remotely true, why has the abolition issue attracted such massive opposition? After all, doesn't everyone want to see greater efficiency and increased effectiveness of services in all walks of life?

The key factor is that the Government's claims are a world apart from all the factual evidence produced in a series of independent studies.

Mr Baker says the Bill's enactment would lead to minimum savings to ratepayers of £50 million a year in the six metropolitan counties. Would it?

No, say top financial consultants Coopers & Lybrand Associates who, in deciding that abolition could cost the metropolitan ratepayers as much as £69 million extra every

year, said: "Our updated analysis does not support the Government's claims for savings as a result of the re-allocation of functions detailed in the Bill."

"We conclude there are unlikely to be any net savings and that there could be significant extra costs. We have not been able to reconcile the difference between the Government's estimate and our estimate."

Mr Baker also says the Bill would mean "better local government" handing most of the metropolitan county council functions to the districts, removing confusion, streamlining services. Would it?

No, say internationally renowned P.A. Management Consultants whose report refutes all of the Government's streamlining claims, stating that: "The existing structure provides a more effective, more accountable and less complex framework for providing services than the Government's alternative structure."

PA's consultants added: "We have been unable to find a single service where the quality of service is likely to be improved as a result of the change in structure. In many cases, we believe there will be a marked decline in quality."

The Abolition Bill itself is a very thick and complex document. Yet, like the White Paper before it, its claims are hollow, its proposals transparent. Which may explain why the experts have seen right through it: a Bill that won't save money. A Bill that complicates rather than streamlines local government, making it less local and far less accountable. A Bill that fails even to meet its own objectives.

As PA's report concludes: "We believe there is little doubt that if the proposals are enacted in their present form, Parliament will be considering further changes in the metropolitan local government system within the next decade."

So, today and tomorrow, when M.P.s debate a matter whose outcome will affect the lives of more than 11 million people, they might do well to reflect on The Guardian's recent leader column in which the newspaper surmised: "It is impossible to read the Bill without asking one question: What on earth is the point of it all? Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, insists that nothing has altered the Government's conviction about an unnecessary tier of local government. But the emphasis is increasingly on the con."

SAY NO TO THE ABOLITION OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY COUNCILS. DEMAND AN INQUIRY NOW.

ISSUED BY THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY COUNCILS OF GREATER MANCHESTER, MERSEYSIDE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, TYNE AND WEAR, WEST MIDLANDS AND WEST YORKSHIRE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE GMC, COUNTY HALL, MANCHESTER M60 3HR

THE TIMES DIARY

Crossed lines?

Peter Hamid, Labour candidate in the Southgate by-election, describes as "the craziest thing I've ever heard" a story now circulating in Alliance quarters. It is that Hamid, a black Enfield councillor, approached the SDP a year ago with a view to possibly joining the party. Ian Wright, then regional SDP organizer and now assistant to SDP MP Mike Hancock, says he had three anonymous calls from a West Indian disenchanted with Labour and thinking of joining the SDP. During the second call he admitted being a North London councillor, and during the third, when Wright exclaimed: "This is silly! Who are you?", he was told: "I am an Enfield councillor." Lee Lewis, then local party chairman, also received "three or four calls" from a man who said he was a West Indian councillor on Enfield council who did not protest when Lewis referred to him as "Mr Hamid". The calls then stopped. Hamid "absolutely and categorically" denies the story. "They are crazy," he says. "They must have the wrong fellow. It's certainly not me."

Unlauded

Derek Laud, the black Monday Club member who harassed that right-wing body in a speech to Young Conservatives last week, had better resign quickly, if he is intending to go. Members of the Young Monday Club, incensed at Laud's apparent treachery, are to submit a motion to the club's executive council on December 17 demanding his expulsion. This would scupper what I'm told was Laud's original intention, which was simply not to renew his membership in January.

Blasted Heath

Laud is in exalted company. Also facing expulsion by fellow Tories who do not share his views is former prime minister Edward Heath, life patron of the Federation of Conservative Students. Marc Glendenning, FCS chairman, has written to Heath suggesting he either resign or be "turfed out" at the next FCS conference in April. Glendenning denies Heath's "persistent attacks on key government policies" and says: "A return of the type of discredited policies associated with your period of office would be a manifest lunacy. Mrs Thatcher has learnt the lesson of history even if you haven't." A measure of how far right the FCS has become is that while Tory MPs queue up to deplore Sir Keith Joseph's proposed cuts in student grants, the FCS wants him to go "several steps further" and replace grants completely with a full loan system.

Tell-tale

Sir John Colville, private secretary to Princess Elizabeth from 1947-49 and assistant private secretary to Chamberlain, Churchill and Attlee, has sold his diaries to the highest bidder - Hodder and Stoughton - for a sum he refused to disclose yesterday. The tabloids, however, will be disappointed. Far from a kiss-and-tell-all, Sir John has condensed his regal revelations into two paragraphs.

Video watch

Among the film producers and liberal activists at a public meeting to debate the new video law last week sat 19 soberly dressed, well scrubbed young people. I am told they were front runners for the jobs of video nasty inspectors - posts eagerly sought by nearly 2,000 people since they were advertised in the spring.

BARRY FANTONI



'I gather there's going to be a frightful row about the miners' frozen asset mountain'

Torpedoed

Granada decides today whether to transmit this evening its *World in Action* film about the diary kept on the Conqueror, the submarine that sank the Belgrano. The *Observer*, which fell out with Granada over the story, published the diary, written by Lieutenant Nyenra Sethia, eight days ago. BBC's *Panorama* team examined it last spring and broadcast extracts back in April. Maybe Granada should call it a day. Belgrano obsessives must already know chunks - such as "I can hardly believe the enormity of what we have done" - by heart. In any case, Sethia's doubts were not shared by his shipmates. When *Conqueror* returned from the Falklands, the crew of its three torpedo tubes bore the slogans "Missed" (the first shot failed to hit the Argentine cruiser), "Fatal hit" and "God rest you bastards".

PHS

Principle that is bad practice

by Sarah Hogg

Behind the scenes of Mr Nigel Lawson's early pre-Budget consultations, and Mr Norman Fowler's social security reviews, something strangely like an issue of principle is being privately debated within the Government. This is the "contributory principle" on which the Beveridge system of British social insurance was supposed to have been founded in the 1940s.

This principle of personal insurance naturally appeals to the Prime Minister's self-help philosophy. But it is a fiction that today's national insurance system remains contributory in any real sense. Attempts to satisfy Mrs Thatcher are making it difficult to find ways of rationalising social security on the one hand, and income taxation on the other.

Beveridge's original conception of national (or "social") insurance, published 42 years ago this month, provided that flat-rate benefits would be earned by flat-rate contributions - based on actuarial calculations - just like private insurance. Beveridge specifically rejected earnings-related contributions which, he argued, would turn national insurance into just another kind of income tax.

Almost as soon as the edifice of national insurance was under construction its contributory foundations were being undermined - a process which culminated in the

introduction of earnings-related contributions in 1961. Of course, such a scheme could still be "contributory", but only if individual levels of contributions and benefits are actually linked.

With the exception of the new pension scheme, today's national insurance benefits are unaffected by whether you pay in more or less per week. Even in the so-called earnings-related pension scheme, money in and money out is only loosely connected, because the scheme is intentionally redistributive.

Beveridge hoped that social insurance would reduce the need for means tests, which he believed discouraged personal saving. But the national insurance system has proved totally inadequate for today's levels of high and prolonged unemployment - over half those on the dole are depending on supplementary allowances.

It is not only the use of means-tested benefits that has gone wrong. Because the national insurance system never managed to fulfil Beveridge's intentions of including those sections of the population (notably housewives) not in paid employment, a whole raft of "non-contributory" benefits has had to be developed in parallel.

National insurance has become,

in effect, a fiscal mid-way complication to the basic social security job of government: taking in money through taxation and distributing cash according either to particular circumstances (child-rearing or disability) or financial need. Governments have clung on to it because there is something politically attractive (or rather less unattractive) in levying the kind of tax which is supposed to yield a direct personal benefit. This is a real advantage of specific social security taxes, used by many governments. But Britain has become, to put it politely, something of a con-trick.

Successive governments have not shown any hesitation in altering the levels of benefits supposedly "earned" by national insurance contributions, both up and down. It is the political lobby power of the elderly, not the "contributory principle", that has kept the retirement pension rising ahead of other benefits, of both the contributory and non-contributory variety.

Employers' contributions have been surcharged to provide tax revenue; reduced to sweeten the Confederation of British Industry and encourage employment. Employees' contributions have been raised: in theory to balance greater demands on the national insurance

fund, in practice to adjust the Treasury's payments to the fund, which is a public spending decision like any other.

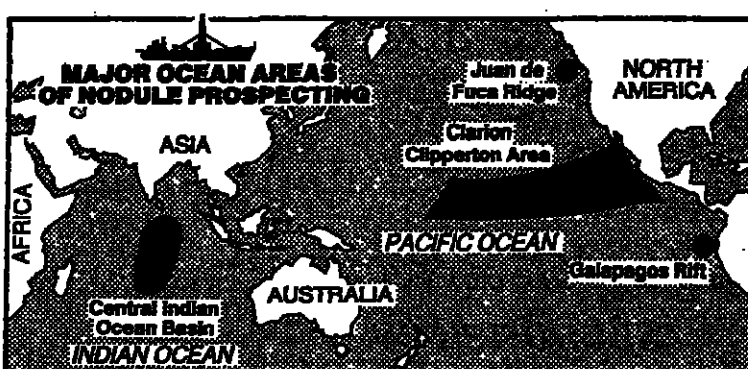
Throughout the 40 years of the welfare state the "contributory principle" has periodically surfaced and sunk again. It is up for battle now for two reasons. First, because Mr Fowler's social security reviews cannot pretend to efficiency unless they tackle the duplications and divisions of benefits. As the Institute for Fiscal Studies pointed out in its own survey this summer, the national insurance system stands in the way of reforming social security, to provide more effective relief of poverty at lower cost.

Secondly, Mr Nigel Lawson's need to cut taxes in ways likely to stimulate employment should lead towards wholesale review of national insurance contributions. These bear particularly heavily on the low-paid and their employers, and reduce employment incentives.

It is possible for both Mr Fowler and Mr Lawson to move forward simultaneously by fusing the income tax and social security systems in ways designed to provide greater income security in need, and greater income satisfaction in employment. But the fuddled, searle relic of a national insurance system, whose early intentions were so quickly betrayed, stands in the way of such a reform.

Colin Hughes explains the debate over whether Britain should sign the Law of the Sea Treaty

Will Britain catch the tide?



How the nodules are found

Nodules were discovered by HMS Challenger in 1852, but their full potential was not realised for 100 years. Seabed reserves of copper, for example, could be nearly two-thirds of land reserves of 60 million tonnes, and cobalt seabed reserves could be twice as large as land reserves of 2.5 million tonnes.

Most lie in two oceans, the vast Clarion-Clipperton field running across the Pacific from Mexico to Hawaii, and the Central Indian Ocean basin.

Scientists have become excited by a new kind of nodule, at shallower depths of 2.5 to 3 km, containing zinc and possibly silver.

Technology for mining, now on the

drawing board, uses three possible methods of bringing the nodules to the surface. Mechanical dredging would use a continuous line of buckets on a dragline, scooping nodules from the ocean floor as they are pulled by two parallel ships. Hydraulic systems would use conventional drilling ships or platforms, with a pipe sucking up nodules after they had been separated from sediment.

The most flexible method would use free-shifting, unmanned roving vehicles operating in groups of 10 to 20, which would crawl about the sea bottom gathering up the nodules. The harvest would be crushed and pumped to the surface as slurry, to be stored in a buffer below the ship.

the package and has said: "Deep-sea bed mining remains a lawful exercise of the freedom of the high seas open to all nations." Tony Koh, the Singapore diplomat who chaired the convention, has warned that any companies trying to mine outside the treaty will be challenged in the international courts.

We have until December 9 to sign. Although American firms have lobbied here against signing British firms have held back because they believe that, whether we sign or not, mining is unlikely to go ahead.

The attractions of deep-sea mining will eventually become irresistible, however. Already most manganese production is controlled by the Soviets and South Africa, and the bulk of mobile mining profits would come from nickel.

So far 138 nations have signed, including France and Japan. British diplomats have advised the govern-

ment to adopt West Germany's course, decided last week, of refusing to sign themselves but not opposing a signature by the EEC. Their hope is that, by leaning over European shoulders at the preparatory commission, the West can persuade the Third World to bend.

The risk is that, if they fail to budge, British companies will lose the advantage of "pioneer status" in the first round of mining license applications. This was a concession made by the Group of 77 two years ago to the western nations, guaranteeing "first come first served" rights to those companies whose mother nations had signed before the deadline.

The US government prefers the "mini-treaty" option. Already with the UK, France, West Germany, Belgium, Japan, Italy, and the Netherlands, it has signed a Conflict Resolution Agreement over mining

Sea Treaty: pros and cons

Pros and cons of the Law of the Sea Treaty are as follows:
PROS: the treaty codifies international law on the 200-mile exclusive economic zone, continental shelves up to 300 miles, and 12-mile territorial waters; passage through straits, archipelagos, and territorial waters; flight of aircraft over the water, and submarines under it; "innocent passage" of ships; pollution controls and protection of marine life. An international Court of the Sea to rule on disputes would sit in Hamburg.

CONS: the treaty creates a 136-seat international seabed authority with powers vested in a 36-seat executive. Objectors say it favours poor, landlocked, or eastern bloc nations. It would have power to limit production levels of deep-sea min-

erals. After 15 years, the authority could change policy with a three-quarters majority, which the Americans see as a dangerous shift from the usual UN veto rules.

The treaty also creates a company or "enterprise", owned by the authority, to which any private or state company would have to hand half of every mining sale. The enterprise would then mine it and distribute a "dividend" among poorer nations.

Mining companies would be compelled to transfer mining technology to the company to carry out mining operations, a rule the private mining industry says would be practically impossible. Both the "enterprise" and the authority would be based in Jamaica.

sites. The problem with that is that the USSR and India have both registered for pioneer status and signed the treaty, and the Soviets could decide to slice straight across the western cake.

However unacceptable mining companies find the treaty provisions, they are unlikely to risk "going it alone", as the Americans advocate. Without the protective umbrella of international law they say that attempts to mine independently of the authority will lead to messy international litigation.

Some mining company lawyers believe the best course for the British Government would be to sign, but with a noisy protest against the deep-sea mining articles. They believe that Britain could then gain the political and diplomatic benefits, win the right to claim pioneer status, and meanwhile hold off ratifying the treaty as long as possible.

The objection to that is that the already antagonised Group of 77 may refuse to budge, and we will find ourselves landed with an international deal under which no companies will mine.

So far 14 of the 60 countries required to bring the treaty into force have ratified, and it could take another decade before numbers are complete. The treaty's detractors believe that leaves time enough to stay out while bringing pressure for change, so that we can accede later when and if the rules are improved.

Advocates of signing dread such a prospect. They say that the developing nations have already bent over backwards to make concessions on deep-sea mining and will certainly not bend any further. If we fail to sign now we risk sacrificing a treaty which could set valuable precedents for law on space, the moon, Antarctica, and the radio spectrum.

We will, as with the European Community, find it much harder to change the traditions of a body which has grown up in our absence, when we later decide we ought to join. The British government is accused of behaving like an American poodle, against our own national interests.

Foreign Office lawyers dismiss the "sign but with a proviso" option as a non-runner, saying that once we have signed it is all or nothing. They say that the benefits of the other sea law articles are overstated since most have become parcellised in custom and convention of international law over the past few years anyway.

Those mining companies which have other shipping interests are not so sure. They say that codification of international sea law is a great advance, and fear the prospect of British interests being challenged in the international courts where opponents will use the provisions of a treaty to which we are not a party.

What was once billed as the greatest advance in international relations since the founding of the UN has gradually dried into a frustrated tangle of indecision. For those whose hopes of a historic settlement are slipping steadily away, a decision by Britain not to sign will be seen as deepening the drive towards deadlock.

At the very least, fantasies of world government and North-South ideology clash apart, the fact that December 9 will pass by without celebration marks a sadly missed opportunity.

Anne Sofer

Hell is a perpetual class struggle

Nineteen-eighty-four is a good year to be conjuring up visions of hell. My private vision is of a state of permanent political uproar: life as one long protest meeting, a sort of eternal day of action. Everyone, in this hell, would be perpetually angry and shouting; there would be no jokes or quiet conversations in the corners. The air would be full of the jarring distortions of badly amplified microphones, and the pavement would be ankle-deep in trampled campaign broadsheets. Communication would be by banner and lapel badge, progress by march on Whitehall.

Unfortunately, it is no good shuddering to shake off the nightmare. This prospect is what is now being offered to all loyal members of the Inner London Education Authority for the foreseeable future. Let me not be misunderstood: while it is common form to blame the left for the growing politicization of education (and certainly some of them behave as if my idea of hell is theirs of heaven), in the present instance the boot is on the other foot.

It is almost as if the Government has got so hooked on its stormy relationship with local government in London that it wants to make sure that it will not come to an end with the GLC. Built into the GLC Abolition Bill is a permanent contract to perpetual struggle.

Here it is: Clause 21 of the Bill. "The Secretary of State shall before 31st March 1991, and may thereafter from time to time, review the exercise by the Authority of its functions relating to education and may, in the light of any such review, determine whether and, if so, to what extent those functions or any of them should be transferred or divided between all or any of the Inner London borough councils and the Common Council or any body on which those councils or any of them are represented."

In other words, the secretary of state is to be obliged by law to keep the whole argument about the break-up of the ILEA vigorously on the boil for at least another seven years.

That will make it a dozen in all. When the successor to Stuart Machure's *Hundred Years of London Education* comes to be written, it will be known as the "Twelve Years War". Ever since 1979, the Government has made one proposal after another for the authority's future - dismemberment, a joint board, a new elected authority, and now the renewed prospect of dismemberment.

The one hope is that these clauses of the Bill will be savaged in the House of Lords. However, we in local government do perpetually cry out to the Lords and this time it really is out of the depths.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

Matthew Parris

Why Tony Benn is always right

Ahmed was an Arab student I befriended in my first year at university. You would have described him then as a lonely and distrustful boy. By our second term, he was hostile and suspicious. In our second year, he was taken away. He had become paranoid.

I remember him bawling at my door in the night, shouting, "Mr Matthews, urgent! There's a death ray! Quick! It's killing me - come fast to see it" and, seizing me by the arm, pulling me into his room. A distant porch light shined through his tightly-drawn curtains. "Ahmed," I said, "that's not a death ray. It's somebody's porch light, shining through your curtains."

"Mr Matthews, please listen. If you wanted to kill a man secretly with a death ray, would you make it look like a death ray? Would you colour it blue and place it outside his window, with warnings written DANGER: DEATH RAY? No. You would make it look like something else - how do you say - 'disguise'. Make it so his friends would say it was nothing, would say he was mad."

The episode as a whole made a powerful impression on me. I had always previously thought to advance a wrong theory it was necessary to be ignorant or malevolent to be unaware of the evidence, or to twist it. But Ahmed was neither more ignorant, stupid, nor malevolent than I. He was a student, and his conclusions do violence to the evidence upon which they were based. His logic was no more tortured than that upon which the average party manifesto is founded.

I concluded that it is very difficult to argue against the grain of another's thinking.

I thought of Ahmed recently, when I went to Battersea Town Hall for a meeting to rally support for the striking miners. The star attraction was Tony Benn. I had always wanted to see one of his extra-parliamentary performances so (not wanting a fuss) I dressed like the others, and carried a copy of *Socialist Worker*.

Mr Benn was better than he is in Parliament. His style is not of the rabble-rousing kind. It is much more like Enoch Powell's: unemotional but intense. There is, besides, a great civility and a certain warmth. He inspires among the converted, that combination of fellow-feeling and respect which it must be every socialist leader's aim to achieve: authority without rank.

They were young his audience, some of them very young. Not (as I remember from my own student days) were they mostly middle-class kids reacting against their parents. I doubt whether many of them enjoyed half the income a coalminer can earn; but Mr Benn took that problem head on, right at the start.

Miners have better terms and better pay than most industrial

workers (and highly paid) officers, heads, teachers and community leaders. It is not as if they have nothing better to do.

When Sir Keith Joseph agreed to the creation of a new directly elected education authority earlier this year he won a round of relieved applause. The parent's committees went round exclaiming euphorically "We've won!" and the atmosphere became cordial and for a moment tentatively hopeful. People remembered a distinguished precedent, the great London School Board, and dream of a new, non-political, "Education First" authority.

But now the promise looks decidedly empty. The sort of democracy being offered is as cosmetic an exercise as the "school council" set up for pupils by a publicity-conscious head teacher. We are to have all the paraphernalia of ballots and candidates and standing orders, but in the end we can only do what the Head approves of - and if there's any trouble the privilege will be withdrawn.

The new authority will be automatically rate-capped, and virtually all its functions subject to ministerial veto. This includes "the number of persons employed by the authority or employed by it for a particular purpose", its "arrangements for obtaining services", supplies, facilities and its "organization and arrangements for managing its affairs".

It is hard to see what candidates can put into their election manifestos, and what voters can vote for, that will not be capable of being subsequently overturned by the secretary of state.

It is hard not to see behind all this harassment the vindictive spite of the Prime Minister. She has always hated the ILEA and worked for its destruction: being thwarted in one campaign after another seems only to have made her more determined to win in the end. The fighting spirit is that there are now too many people with a political interest in seeing the quality of London's education deteriorate. The Government will be looking for any excuse to break up the authority, and the wreckers on the "outside left", growing in strength in unions and the constituency Labour parties, will want proof that rate-capping cuts are in fact wrecking the devastation they predict.

The one hope is that these clauses of the Bill will be savaged in the House of Lords. However, we in local government do perpetually cry out to the Lords and this time it really is out of the depths.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

Matthew Parris

Why Tony Benn is always right

workers," he said. "And why? Because they have muscle and they have been prepared to use it. They are the vanguard of our movement. That is why Mrs Thatcher wants to break them. Completely waterproof!"

Ahmed would have heartily approved of the latter part of the speech. "You read of different events in different parts of the world," said Mr Benn, "and I suppose some of you think they are unrelated. A coal-miners' strike in one part of the country. Safety problems with a nuclear power plant on the other side of England. Cruise missiles in Berkshire. Mr Botha at Chequers. Mrs Thatcher off to see Mr Reagan. These things are all connected."

The audience was hushed, expectant. "The miners are on strike. Why? Because Mrs Thatcher wants to break them, and with them the whole trade union movement. The Government invests billions in the 'peaceful' use of nuclear power. Why? So they don't need to rely on coal. This will help them smash the miners."

"What do you need for a nuclear power plant? Uranium. Where is uranium mined? Namibia. Who controls Namibia? Mr Botha. That's what he talks about with Mrs Thatcher. And what is the by-product of nuclear plants? Plutonium. What is plutonium used for? Atomic weapons. Cruise, from America. Trident, from Britain. So Mrs Thatcher goes to Washington to talk to Mr Reagan about."

The pinnacle of the argument had still to be scaled. "Perhaps you have read," Mr Benn continued, "about the 'moderates' in Parliament. The Tory Wets, Mr Roy Jenkins, the Liberals. Perhaps you have been taken in by talk of them 'defeating' Mrs Thatcher. They are being prepared, now, for government. You will be told that they are 'challenging' Mrs Thatcher. You will be told that they wish to 'defeat' her. As the plan goes, there will be an election; and it will be announced that Mrs Thatcher has 'lost' to the moderates. But comrades, nobody will have lost to anybody. The Establishment will go on, as before, under a different style of leader, with essentially the same reactionary policies. Only the working people of this country will have lost."

I wonder where Ahmed is now? He knew, as they carried him away, that this only vindicated him. As the miners' strike crumbles, do not suppose that Mr Benn will think otherwise.

Correction

The reduction in coal stocks since the strike began, quoted by Mr Peter Walker and mentioned by Woodrow Wyatt on Saturday, should have been about seven million tonnes, not 76 million.



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CONCERT OF EUROPE

In the affairs of the European Community, the solution of one set of abstruse problems only leads to the need to solve another. The summit at Dublin today meets with the nagging and long-endured worry over its long-term budget arrangements virtually settled. The text of the new financial discipline that has been agreed by the Finance Ministers has to be formally adopted by the heads of government, but the French and Germans are equally insistent that there is no reason why formal approval of the budget discipline at Dublin should hold up the principal business before the heads of government - the enlargement of the Community to twelve members by the accession of Spain and Portugal.

Yet, as always in the affairs of the Community, the broader and grander conceptual horizons are obscured by technical detail that is almost incomprehensible to the layman who is not prepared to steep his mind in the complexities of EEC mechanics. For all practical purposes, the heads of governments will be talking not so much about enlargement as about wine and fish. On the principle of enlargement there is no disagreement among present members. All the obstacles arise from the consequential difficulties for present member states that will follow from the impact of Iberian membership on systems already under strain and in need of reform. The production of table wine under the present support regime is already 130 per cent above consumption, and the French and the British are determined to bring it under control before the accession of Spain which would add further to its huge size and cost.

The Italians, however, resist any reduction of the wine lake, except that they think it would help to lower total production if the Germans could be dissuaded from their time-honoured practice of adding sugar to table wine. (Not surprisingly, the Germans are unwilling.) Unless they are satisfied with wine, the Italians (with the Greeks) are reluctant to assent to an agreement on fish to accommodate the Iberian countries. In turn, the main fishing nations (including Britain and France) stand by the agreed Community position on conserving fish stocks. They will give Spain a little more access to Community waters but not much. On such minutiae does the pace of enlargement hang.

But it has always been so with Community affairs. The EEC began, and continues, as a Community which sought after political stability, co-operation and peace in Europe indirectly by co-operating on trade, agriculture and industry. As a Community of sovereign states, it must allow each member to be reasonably satisfied that its own interest is safe before progress continues to its deeper political goals.

What these should be was set out by Mrs Thatcher in the paper she offered to the other heads of governments at Fontainebleau, and was echoed in her speech at Avignon on Friday. The objective of the enlarged Community should be "to aim beyond the common commercial policy through political co-operation towards a common

approach to external affairs". It should be able to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic alliance; its members should consult each other closely and regularly, and should attempt to coordinate a European position within Nato. All this requires improvements in the Community's internal arrangements, not least by the creation of a more genuinely common market of goods and services within the Community, more technical cooperation and a more sensible agricultural policy. But the essence of the British position is rightly that this common approach must be achieved by reforms in the existing system, and not by sweeping constitutional changes which could imperil unity by challenging the national sovereignty of member states.

The Community has already come a long way since its post-war foundation by the original six member states who had not only been united by the strife that had divided them, but who also shared a common, if turbulent, history and complementary and closely related cultures. The post-war accord between France and Germany was the axis on which the EEC then turned. The two countries needed each other's markets, and even more the political security that their economic relationship gave them. The peace and prosperity of the other original four depended on the maintenance of the relationship between the principal two. It was in some real sense a recreation of Charlemagne's empire in which the Latinized Franks and the Germans, so distinct yet so complementary, formed a joint imperium. Only Britain, of the major Western European nations, stayed out, much as the England in which Offa and Egbert were the principal kings, stayed apart from the Carolingian domains, despite close cultural affinity and trade connections. By standing to one side, Britain missed the benefits of growth enjoyed by the old Community in the early years, when it did join, the best years had passed, which made the consequences of its accession harder for the original Six.

The tensions in the Community since Britain's accession in 1972 have exceeded any experienced in its earlier and more compact years, and insistence that this country should have conditions it can tolerate is no reason for withholding tribute to the willingness of the original Six to see their cosy compact disturbed by the admission of members with interests not easily accommodated. This said, they have not accepted all this, the weary pre-1972 negotiations for British entry, the subsequent frustrating haggling as Britain tried to change some of the rules, or the latest stages of enlargement out of purely starry-eyed disinterest.

They have recognized (as Britain and more recent members know) that the political ends of the Community, which are peace and stability in Europe, could not be assured without Britain and other newer members. The present Ten now equally know that the Community needs to be rounded off by the accession of the Iberian states. The underlying purpose is the stability of the Mediterranean and the preservation of

democracy on its European shores by prosperous and free societies which are not vulnerable to Soviet destabilizing techniques. So great an objective must not be jeopardised by the rows that now seem unavoidable at Dublin over wine and fish.

It will not be as easy for twelve to work together as it was for six, especially since the twelve are so much more diverse in character, tradition, geography, resources and development. Increasingly there could appear to be a divide between the Northern countries (which, of course, in this context includes France) and the less developed nations of the Mediterranean. This very challenge gives point to the current interest on finding ways of integrating the Community more closely. The British seek the way of practical improvements; the completion of the internal market and the development of co-operation. Others talk more of structural change, though almost certainly the revolutionary implications of some of the suggestions (phasing out the convention of unanimous decisions to protect national sovereignty, and the derogation of sovereignty on some questions to a "union") go well beyond what most members would in practice accept.

On the other hand, the greater integration of the Community will be before the heads of governments at Dublin. There are proposals for accelerating frontier procedures, and for co-operation on education, culture and science, to none of which can there be objection. There are also the suggestions for advancing political integration being put forward by the Committee, set up at Fontainebleau, under the chairmanship of Senator Dooge of Ireland. These include restricting the national right of veto, increasing the power of the European Parliament, co-operation of particular groups within the Community for specific purposes, and an attempt to take integration forward by a special constitutional conference to draw up a treaty on these matters.

Yet though President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl are understandably anxious to give the Community fresh impetus, Mrs Thatcher's pragmatic preference for making what exists work better is much more realistic than most of the ideas for institutional change that are now being promoted.

Travelling the European path hopefully requires an instinct that it leads in the right direction, but it should not involve preconceptions about what lies at the end of the road. In politics, after all, there is never an end, but only another path to be trodden. What matters in Dublin is that enlargement should not be threatened by the storm brewing over the wine-lake. Each member needs the Community and it should be practical about it. The French Prime Minister, M. Laurent Fabius, is said recently to have observed in private that, with the Community, France is still a very important power, but without it would be much smaller. That is true of all the member states and it is reason enough for them not to waste their efforts at Dublin, whether on bickering about wine or on pipe-dreams about union.

back them with its blanket authorization to transfer any or every Greater London Council function to the so-called residuary bodies, the quangos to be established to pick up a myriad of pieces (and levy a precept to pay for it).

Ministers say they believe in the boroughs and in the districts. Then why - Section 88 - compel them to act jointly and set up cumbersome committees? It is easy enough to write a clause making the Secretary of State for Transport potentially responsible for ensuring that the traffic lights work in Huddersfield (Clause 10 (1) of Schedule 5); it is even easier to ignore the possible financial and manpower costs of such a move. It is difficult to make the exercise of that power subject to proper supervision. Yet that is what MPs should now address themselves to.

One question should be in the front of MPs' minds as they debate this bill: where are the checks and balances to the flow of executive power set out in these complicated dispositions? Exception should be taken whenever the phrases "the Secretary of State considers" or "joint arrangements" crop up. They are a recipe for private government and the abuse of power. They should have a much smaller place in the reform of local government in the conurbations.

BLANK CHEQUES FOR THE MINISTER

The abolition bill will today be put to the House of Commons as a matter of boundaries and offices, merely local. It is much more. This exercise will, inevitably, test Parliament; the passage of this bill will expose the capacity of the legislature to charter then pursue executive power as it shifts and eddies in the hidden courses of the centralizing state.

Individual members of Parliament can be expected to fight their corner. Naturally, the MP for Potters Bar will now have realized that scrapping the Greater London Development Plan has consequences for Hertfordshire. Of course the members for Knutsford and Altrincham have digested Section 40 (1) (c) and have worked out what might happen to their constituents' travel to work pattern if, as allowed, Stockport were to secede from the provision of through buses and trains into Manchester. The several members who speak up for City institutions will indeed already have asked why when the 1963 London Government Act is otherwise to be gutted the socialistic provisions (on rates equalization) in its Section 66 are not only to survive, but to survive enhanced.

Such issues can safely be left to MPs anxious to protect their constituents. This bill, however, calls from them a wider obli-

gation. Ostensibly about devolving powers to districts and boroughs the Local Government Bill becomes in too many places a recipe for centralization. Today, the man to watch is Mr John Rowcliffe who will be sitting not in the body of the Commons but in that Parliamentary pen reserved for officials. He is the Under-Secretary who has put this bill together and doubtless in the process earned himself such gong as the mandarin awards its Stakhanovites. What Mr Rowcliffe has done, at one point after another, is simply to write in discretionary powers for his Secretary of State. The bill is peppered with the phrase "as the Secretary of State thinks fit". When Mr Rowcliffe has doubted the "joint arrangements" and the labyrinth of committees he has bunged in a provision for ministerial orders to be made, often outside Parliamentary scrutiny, at some future date (section 95 sums up the extent of ministerial discretion).

Let us not blame Mr Rowcliffe; he has done what comes naturally to Whitehall officials. But this access of ministerial discretion makes a farce of the government's claim to be restoring powers to the lower tier of local authorities in London and the metropolitan counties. Let Mr Jenkin or Mr Baker make this claim: filing Section 59 (1) (4)

Spreading benefit of regionalism

From Sir Colin Buchanan

Sir, As one who has observed the coming and goings of regional aid policies for some forty years, there is nothing in your leader, "North of Watford" (November 28) with which I would disagree.

Within the next few weeks the Government is likely to have the chance to take one positive step, foreshadowed in your article, which would do as much as anything to show the regions they are not forgotten, namely, to abandon that ill-conceived, widely detested and long fought over proposal for a third London airport at Stansted (which would consolidate British civil aviation in the south-east corner of England for the rest of time) and instead to encourage the development of the regional airports, leading to a more sensible distribution of the load, better related to the spread of population on the ground and, given prosperity (which it would help to create), better able to meet the future "prosperity to fly".

Yours truly,
COLIN BUCHANAN,
Applentree House,
Lincombe Lane,
Boars Hill,
Oxford.
November 28.

On the hit list

From the Leader of the London Borough of Southwark Council

Sir, Your article of November 20 (page 10), entitled "What next after Liverpool?", besides being amusing was both ill-informed and failed to deal with the issues at the present time discussed by hit-list authorities. Since the July 24 announcement that we were to be a hit-list authority there have been full discussions both within the Labour movement and other discussions within the wider community as to the consequences and responses we should make to overcome Government attacks.

It is becoming clearer every day that to be forced into reducing our expenditure by £18m, which is the Government dictate, will mean cuts in services that are badly needed in a borough itself designated by the DoE as the tenth poorest in the country. I, my colleagues in the majority party were not elected to destroy those services which have been so painstakingly created by the pioneers of the Labour movement for decades past. We therefore intend to defend those services with all the power at our disposal. Your article presents a picture of battles in individual boroughs as to what strategies and campaigns to employ. In Southwark there is virtually total unity within our group, the Labour movement and trade union movements as to the strategies and tactics that we will employ in March/April next year.

Yours faithfully,
TONY RITCHIE, Leader,
London Borough of Southwark Council,
Town Hall, Peckham, SE5.
November 22.

Dartford Tunnel

From Mr P. A. Nicholson

Sir, This part of Highgate is quite near the Archway Road. It has become quite noticeable to those of us who live here that the volume of lorries on the Archway Road, which diminished remarkably after the opening of recent sections of the M25 to provide a practicable route from the M2/M20 to the M1, has now perceptibly begun to increase again.

Obviously word has got around that the time savings to be gained by using the M25 are more than offset by the congestion resulting from the insistence on charging tolls to cross the Dartford Tunnel.

If the Department of Transport is serious about wishing to let the M25 reduce central congestion, the tolls should be dropped at once.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. NICHOLSON,
12 Southwood Mansions,
Southwood Lane,
Highgate, N6.
November 26.

Cold comfort

From Mr Eric Silvester

Sir, Your photograph (back page, November 28) of "hanging fridges" of Middlesex Hospital is most entertaining, but your comment underneath, "The biggest and safest fridge in the world", depends upon the prohibition of any glass or other hard containers in the bags and the conscientious observance of this instruction.

In the health and safety world there is an adage that anything that can happen will happen, and hard luck for anyone within many yards of a bursting glass bomb, dropped either from careless handling or through a split in a plastic bag. Luckily the casualty could be wheeled straight into a nearby hospital.

As a further safety measure it is suggested that wet canvas bags be used; they are more durable and the well known principle of loss of heat through evaporation will keep the contents cooler.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC SILVESTER,
57 Park Avenue,
Chippinham,
Wiltshire.
November 28.

From Mr Daniel D. Keats,
Sir, If the weather is so terribly cold and, as your photograph claims, nearly 250 medical students at Middlesex Hospital are actually using Tesco plastic bags as "hanging fridges", why are they all living with the windows open?

Yours etc,
DANIEL D. KEATS,
2 Headgate,
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11.
November 28.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Matter of degree on student grants

From Mr Nevil Johnson

Sir, The Secretary of State's decision to abolish the minimum grant for undergraduates and to require a parental contribution towards fees has provoked many critical responses. What does not appear to have come through in this reaction is any recognition of the extraordinary disparity between the terms now proposed for undergraduate support and those applying to graduates.

For first-degree students the principle of parental responsibility according to means is to be applied in full to maintenance costs and will be extended to some part of fees also. The fact that undergraduates have reached the age of majority and have no legal rights against their parents (who in turn are subject to no legal duties in respect of supporting their offspring) is not held to qualify the rigorous application of this principle. Yet, in contrast, the Government continues to endorse a system of grants for second-degree students, graduates, which rests on the principle of 100 per cent support for both maintenance and fees.

The number of such awards, distributed by the research councils and the British Academy, has fallen in recent years, but the generous terms on which they are provided to those who secure them remain the same.

There can be little doubt that we need a much more differentiated system of support for both undergraduate and graduate education. Parental responsibility must play a part here, despite the difficulties of ensuring that it is discharged. But equally there is a place for loans, including some measure of Treasury support for such a scheme, and it is important that private institutions (including, for example, the wealthier colleges at Oxford and Cambridge) should, like their counterparts in the USA, get back into the business of funding scholarships, an activity from which they have largely withdrawn as state support appeared to make private initiative unnecessary.

The Secretary of State might have avoided much of the present criticism if he had refrained from extending parental liability to fees, recognising that they are set at a substantial level and are easily manipulable. He might then have gone further and put his proposals on the scale of parental contributions into the context of a wider review of student support at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

At the very least the Secretary of State and his department should be asking whether it is efficient and defensible to subject the opportunity to take a first degree so completely to parental means and responsibility, while leaving those stages of higher education at which the whole, calculations of the likely return in career benefits are explicitly made to be financed on terms which combine state munificence with strict rationing to hold down the number of beneficiaries. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
NEVIL JOHNSON,
Nuffield College, Oxford.

From Captain P. H. R. Glennie, RN
Sir, It was news to me that borrowing money was one of those Victorian family virtues which this Government seeks to promote. Yours faithfully,
P. H. R. GLENNIE,
The Old Mill House,
Clanfield,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Power and superpower

From Mr Stephen K. Carter

Sir, Congratulations on your leader (November 26). I agreed with every word, except the last four! The adjective "evil" as applied in Reaganite rhetoric to the USSR, is not helpful. For a Russian Orthodox Christian the existence of evil requires one to cross oneself, to turn away with aversion, to exorcise, but not to study with care and attention.

I believe that we are in danger of reacting to the Soviet Union in just this fashion, and this, combined with Soviet secrecy, radio jamming, interruption of telephone communications, and restrictions on travel and emigration, means that we are in danger of losing all sense of Soviet reality.

I have taught students of Russian history and Soviet Government for

Chatsworth drawings

From the Chairman of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art

Sir, I have seen Mr Hoo's letter of November 23 and wish to make one point very strongly on behalf of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art.

The specialist keepers in our national collections are responsible for scrutinizing applications for export licences for works of art. When they raise objections to export they do so as the expert advisers to the Government, and not as representatives of their own institutions.

The grounds on which such applications are referred to my committee are those of national importance alone. No other factors - for example, the circumstances of a particular sale - are allowed to influence such a referral. It is the reviewing committee which then decides whether or not to recommend to the minister that an export licence should be withheld.

It is unfair and invidious to single out Mr John Rowlands for criticism. I should like to make it clear that he and the other expert advisers carry out a difficult and important task on our behalf; they deserve our confidence and respect. Yours faithfully,
PLYMOUTH, Chairman,
Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art,
Office of Arts and Libraries,
Great George Street, SW1.
November 27.

Testing time for religious views

From Mr Gordon Heald

Sir, The Archbishop of York (December 1) has questioned the validity of the recently published Gallup poll (November 22) which shows that the majority of the national population, 69 per cent, thinks that the Church should not take sides in political issues, although a minority, 25 per cent, thinks it should and 6 per cent are undecided.

Unfortunately, the corollary to this question, exploring specific political issues, did not appear in *The Times* report. The results show that a large proportion of the population, 38 per cent, thinks the Church should become involved in major issues such as unemployment and nuclear weapons but a smaller proportion, 22 per cent, thinks the Church should become involved in the miners' strike. Respondents who had attended Church of England services in the last month supported such involvement less than others.

The Archbishop questions the validity of the doctrinal questions on Virgin Birth, the Bible, and the presence of Christ in the Communion Service. If this questionnaire had only been intended for the clergy then it could have been phrased in a more sophisticated manner.

As pointed out in a letter to the clergy the same questionnaire was also used for personal interviews with 1,000 lay people, many of whom had not attended a church for years, and obviously this was a major constraint on the degree of theological sophistication in the questionnaire.

Whilst the study was conducted for a pressure group within the Church of England, *The Church Society*, the questionnaire was subjected to wide range of consultation and the final version of the questionnaire was Gallup's responsibility.

The Archbishop suggests that opinion polls should declare the name of their sponsor to the respondent. This is not our policy because evidence even from this survey would suggest that it would bias response. The name of the client is always declared on publication and we also insist that the whole survey is published and not just the sections conducive to the client's interest.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON HEALD,
Managing Director,
Social Surveys (Gallup Poll) Limited,
202 Finchley Road, NW3.
December 1.

From Mr Robin Hughes
Sir, In current discussions on the proposed cutting of student grants I have seen no mention of the fact that many tax-paying parents reduce their contributions by making convenanted payments to their children. The method is explained in Form IR47 available from the Inland Revenue, and results in the taxpayer paying 30% and the parents 70% of their parental contribution.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HUGHES,
Blackthorn,
Stockcroft Road,
Balcombe,
Haywards Heath,
West Sussex.
November 30.

From Mr A. V. Martin
Sir, I wonder whether history will record that the tide started to turn against the Conservatives when Mrs Thatcher added middle-class parents and their children to the list of those she had gratuitously offended as well as injured. Yours faithfully,
A. V. MARTIN,
14 Westfield Close, Haxby, York.
December 2.

many years and I believe I can speak for my profession in saying that one sometimes despairs of building real understanding. Soviet restrictions, plus shortage of public funds, make our profession tenuous; but more importantly, understanding in the West generally is already at a very low level. In an age of potential nuclear catastrophe the concept of the "evil empire" is a dangerous obsession when we need, more than ever before, to see clearly and to act rationally.

Sir, we all know that the politics of *The Times* are sound and sensible; you do not need to prove yourself by parroting a silly and regrettable adjective from the wider regions of the American right. Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN K. CARTER,
7 Rosebery Square,
Rosebery Avenue, EC1.

Control on campus

From Mr Richard Pinhorn

Sir, In spite of the response by the Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham (November 22) to Roger Scruton's article (November 20) on free speech on the campus, the university has taken no action to preserve it at this, traditionally one of the most moderate universities in the country.

A month after the near riot at the Conservative Association's meeting that prevented David Hunt, MP, from speaking, not one trouble-maker appears to have been disciplined. I am surprised that the several senior members of the university authorities and security staff present have not even named one rioter.

The Vice-Chancellor has explained the circumstances in which the police may be called. Twice after the rioters had occupied the meeting room we were told that the university had refused to call in the police.

Perhaps, when the university realises that Conservative speakers are not going to be driven away from Nottingham campus, and that actions as well as words are necessary, it may find the backbone to put its house in order. Yours etc,
RICHARD PINHORN, Chairman,
Nottingham University,
Conservative Association,
Portland Building,
Nottingham University,
Nottingham.
November 27.

Pit and pendulum

From Mr N. J. Daykin

Sir, Is Mr Arthur Scargill to be the first trade union leader to bring down an Opposition? Yours faithfully,
N. J. DAYKIN,
176 Thorpe Road,
Norwich, Norfolk.
November 30.

THE ARTS

A quarter-century on from his house debut, Sir Georg Solti returns to Covent Garden tomorrow, again conducting *Rosenkavalier*. Interview by John Higgins

A new score of a familiar old friend

When Sir Georg Solti walks into the pit at Covent Garden tomorrow it will be 25 years to the evening since he made his debut at the Royal Opera House. The opera, as it is now, was Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*. For that December night in 1959 just about the best available *Rosenkavalier* cast was assembled: Schwarzkopf, Jurinac, Steffek and Boehme. At the end of the performance there was a silence punctuated by just a few handclaps, and Solti recalls that for a few seconds he was petrified, wondering just what he had done wrong. Then came the applause. Schwarzkopf, perhaps antagonized by some hostile reviews in the press, never sang in opera again at Covent Garden, but within a few days the house asked Solti to become its next music director.

The new *Rosenkavalier*, directed by John Schlegelstein, is led by Kiri Te Kanawa and Agnes Baltsa, with the American soprano Barbara Bonney as Sophie and Aage Haugland as Ochs. There is, Solti reckons, one crucial difference between those two casts. "The quality is the same. But in 1959 I came as a youngish conductor dealing with a highly experienced cast. Now I have the experience and the cast is very young. Twenty-five years ago I found it a very complicated opera to conduct, extremely difficult. Now it isn't. Once you have decided that it is a conversation piece in which the words and music are absolute partners it becomes so much easier. That's the starting point."

So tomorrow's *Rosenkavalier* will sound rather different from that one back in 1959? "Of course. I tell you a secret, if I were to hear a tape of that performance - and somebody somewhere probably has one - I don't think I would like my contribution very much. The first thing I did when I started work for this *Rosenkavalier* was to go out and buy myself a new score. I didn't want to see any of the

markings I had made during other preparations. When you begin all over again you must start from scratch. At the first orchestral rehearsal I ask 'How many of you played with me back in 1959?' There is a pause, up goes one hand, then another, finally a third. That is all, three musicians. Even in opera houses things change."

It's half vorbei, as the Marcellin herself says. But there is the recording Solti made with Crespin for Decca in 1969. Is that any influence? "Look, I am working on *Rosenkavalier*. I put on Kleiber and I stop listening. ... I put on Böhm and I stop listening. ... I put on Solti and I stop listening. I hate going back to my old records." It's half vorbei. It is over and done with. That 1959 invitation to Covent Garden was instigated by Lord Harewood, who was then working at the Opera House, after hearing Solti conduct a *Forza* in Frankfurt. The invitation to follow Rafael Kubelík as music director followed after the second or third performance of *Rosenkavalier*. Solti is uncertain which - and came jointly from Sir David Webster and Lord Droghda, respectively general administrator and chairman of the board, over a very English whisky and soda. Solti was extremely surprised and not especially enthusiastic. He had a two-year contract with the Los Angeles Philharmonic in his pocket and almost 15 years' non-stop work in European opera houses behind him. He went off to LA to think about it.

"It was Bruno Walter who eventually persuaded me. He said that his generation was now too old to take up such posts and that it was up to the younger generation, men like Karajan and myself, to accept the responsibility. 'The English will love you', he said. 'They have a flair for recognizing talent. What you will have is the climate.' He was certainly right about that. I am always cold

here." Solti demonstrates by pulling his cardigan closer round his chest. His salary, he recalls, that first year was £7,500, but Solti quickly adds that sterling was a bit stronger then.

There was the honeymoon, including the Britten *Midsommer Night's Dream* directed by Gielgud. "I hardly dared to speak during rehearsals. A musician recognizes at once a beautiful voice in whatever language it may be. There was Gielgud directing in his sonorous baritone while I had nothing but pidgin English. No wonder I said almost nothing." Then, as is well known, came the years of wormwood when Solti came under constant critical attack and was on the point of resigning. Looking back, he admits that he was over-sensitive.

"You arrive with the hosannas and then comes the crucifixion. I wasn't ready for the crucifixion because I didn't know enough about the British character. In those days in Germany the music director of an opera house, once he had been accepted, was untouchable. It was taboo to attack a Knappertsbusch, a Kleiber or a Krauss. So I could not understand when the critics who had praised me one day then wrote savage reviews the next. David [Webster] used to have to calm me down and arrange that I saw only the good notices - it's a useful practice."

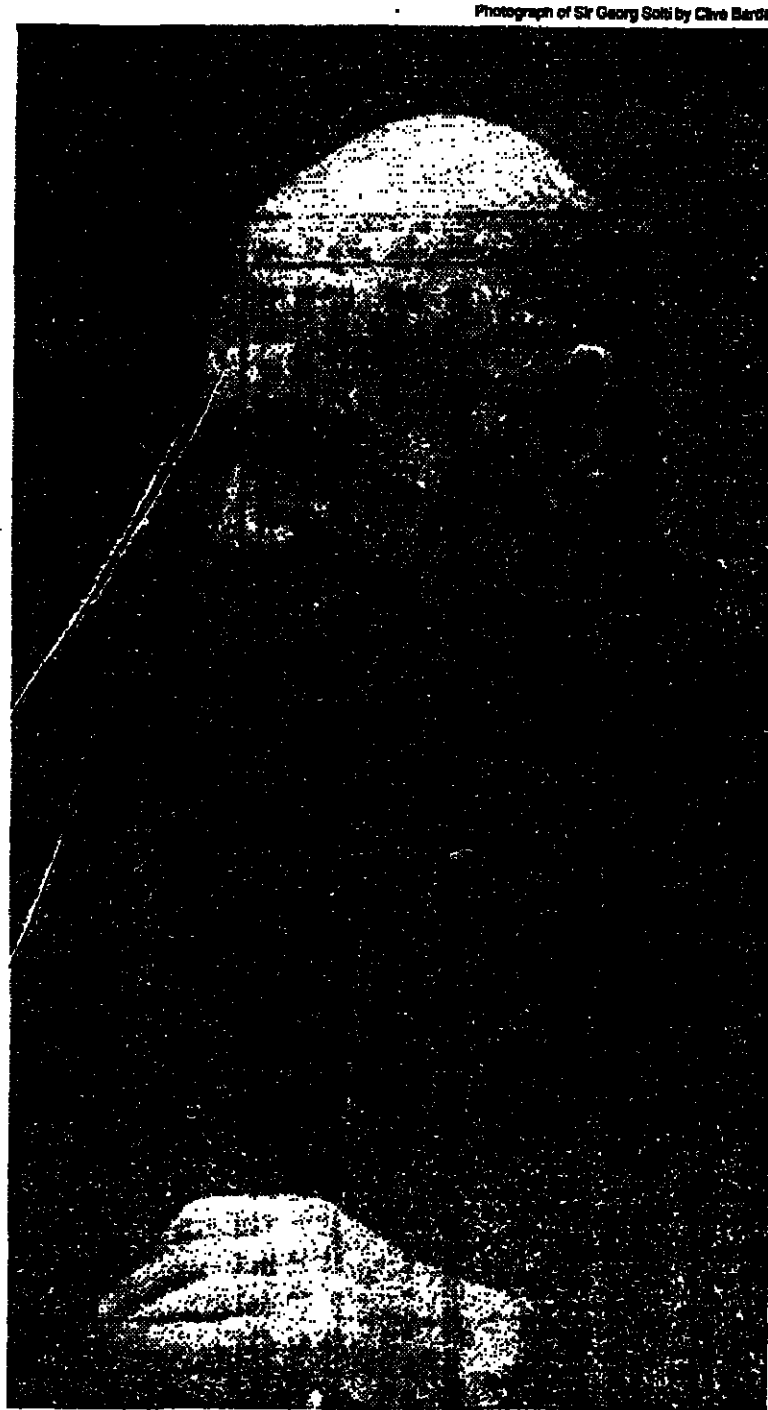
Fortunately Solti's confidence in the early 1960s was boosted by his breakthrough into the international recording scene with *Un ballo in maschera* for Decca with Nilsson and Bergonzi. Producers were not acknowledged on records in those days, but the man who engaged Solti was John Culshaw. *Ballo* led to that *Ring* made by Solti and Culshaw in Vienna, which is even now being re-released on compact disc.

"My debt to John goes back to 1947 when he heard me conduct *Walküre* in Munich. He always claimed this gave him the idea of

doing a complete *Ring* with me. At times we were like children playing with sound and high-flown names like *Sonic Stage*. But we worked well together. I remember that when we had just started on *Rheingold* the *Tar of Recording* (from another company) walked into our Vienna hotel. I introduced him to John and he asked what we were doing. When he got the answer he said 'Pouf, you won't sell 30 copies'. When I last saw him I said 'Pouf, we've sold 300,000'. The Vienna *Ring* on record led to the Covent Garden *Ring* on stage, which Solti notes, with some acerbity, began with howls of disapproval at the visual aspect which later changed to happy acceptance - "Just like Bayreuth". But what apart from that gave him most satisfaction during his decade there at the helm?

"At the beginning I think the triple bill of *Erwartung*, *L'Heure espagnole* and *Gianni Schicchi* was much underrated because it was before its time. Put it on now and you would have a success. There are many productions I look back on with affection: *Zauberflöte*, *Tristan*, *Falstaff*, *Moses and Aaron* (although I was against that at first). And there's one I remember with no affection at all. *Forza*, where nearly everything, apart from Bergonzi and Ghiaurov, went wrong. But probably the greatest pleasure came from Strauss, *Arabella* and *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. And I do have one regret, I never conducted *Boris* while I was at Covent Garden."

● Sir Georg Solti conducts the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in two concerts early next year at the Royal Festival Hall. The first of these, on Thursday, January 31 celebrates the Bicentenary of the *Times*. The programme consists of the Ninth Symphonies of both Shostakovich and Bruckner.



Photograph of Sir Georg Solti by Chris Barritt

Television Puccini peculiar

These are testing times for lovers of Puccini. On Wednesday Channel 4 will screen Tony Palmer's biographical film about the composer, and, as if to give our preconceptions a preliminary pummeling, the South Bank Show (ITV) last night devoted some time to Malcolm McLaren's interpretations of *Turandot* and *Madama Butterfly*.

The *South Bank Show* is a strange, through which famous artists are admitted to a kind of contemporary pantheon. Only those who can be defined as charismatic cultural megaverbrates need apply to be accepted. If Malcolm McLaren had not taken a fancy to these operatic lollipops, he would have encountered the difficulty of a camel passing through a needle's eye in gaining admission to the ranks of the chosen with his other credentials as manager of the Sex Pistols, discoverer of Boy George, packager of Adam Ant, designer of punk clothing and perpetrator of various other appealing outrages.

The programme was made by Andy Haines, who also produced the dreamy *Madam Butterfly* video; happily, the programme made lavish use of this and other promotional videos. These delights apart, the film wisely forebore to break the butterfly of McLaren's gifts on the wheel of intellectual analysis, and celebrated him amiably as a catalyst, egoist and raconteur.

Boy George he recalled as "a shining little dolly", and the Sex Pistols as "a fabulous disaster". There was general agreement that McLaren could not sing, behaved badly, destroyed his creations as soon as he was bored with them and was also a genius.

Three programmes in the 20/20 Vision series (Channel 4) are to be devoted to child sexual abuse, a newly urgent topic of social concern with investigation under way in America into the mass abuse of nursery school children by their teachers. To define the extent of the subject, Saturday's opening documentary revealed the result of a MORI poll which they had commissioned: 8 per cent of boys and 12 per cent of girls will suffer sexual abuse by an adult before the age of 15.

This was not a sophisticated programme, but one which was energized by a missionary determination to open a very nasty can of worms. In coming weeks the professionals will be heard; this opening film dealt solely with statistics and individual victims who spoke movingly of the emotional blackmail and resulting pain and confusion which had accompanied their horrific childhood experiences.

Stephen Pettitt

Celia Brayfield

Concerts

BBCSO/Pritchard Festival Hall/Radio 3

There was only one thing wrong with Friday night's very good performance of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, with a little extra impetus, a little spark of something, it could have been absolutely excellent.

Sir John Pritchard has everything it takes to make Bruckner work well: a spacious, unhurried approach to rhythm; a rounded, coaxing way with string phrasing; and a magnificent sense of the sheer obviousness of it all, a sense of anticipation when something important is just about to happen.

That can also lead him, however, sometimes to take too much for granted from his orchestra. The BBC Symphony sounds remarkably fine at the moment: the strings in particular have been so refined and so unified as to sound almost unrecognizable - their warmth and sense of strong ensemble (for example) the Trio of Bruckner's Scherzo, or the moments in the slow movement when they emerge out of the texture, were all superb.

Woodwind, though well blended, were not so distinguished on this occasion, with some lifeless first flute playing, but the brass was (a few uncomfortable fluffs apart) rounded and serenely blended.

So, when this machine was set in motion, it worked with more than usual efficiency; but there were times in the first movement especially, and as the long slow movement reached its climax, when an

extra ounce of sharp characterization would surely have made Bruckner blaze into life as he did so naturally, at the big climaxes of the finale.

Still, a mature, musical and satisfying performance, which is more than can be said of the Mozart Solemn Vespers in the first half, bland, uninvolved and, for Margaret Marshall, usually so perfectly tuned, a night I dare say she will not wish to remember. Not one of Mozart's more inspired efforts, but there is no need to make us realize it quite so vividly.

Nicholas Kenyon

ECO/Litton Festival Hall

There is a painting of Mstislav Rostropovich in which the stomach is a hollow cut out for the reception of the cello as the last, completing jigsaw segment of the body. On Saturday night, it has to be said, things were not quite like that.

Instrument and player did not fit so snugly; edges were frequently rough, surfaces sometimes worn so smooth that they did not quite grip. The core of Rostropovich's response to the works in hand, though, was untouched. And it was this, in the face, too, of less than stimulating orchestral support, which held the attention and the evening together.

Andrew Litton, conducting, faded almost into shadow play in Schumann's Cello Concerto. In this work the soloist is, indeed, not so much concerto artist as chamber musician and

conductor. And, because Rostropovich took these roles upon himself so wholeheartedly, the orchestral accompaniment seemed even more incidental, coincidental even, than perhaps it should.

What Rostropovich lacked on this occasion, in sheer ease and integration of performance, he made up for in an almost over-troubled intensity of purpose. It was compelling as an isolated factor, particularly, for instance, in the drive up to the first orchestral assertion, or in the progressive honing of the slow movement's theme; but it was less than wholly satisfying in retrospective entirety.

After the interval Mr Litton, who was making his first concert appearance with the English Chamber Orchestra, was tempted to let facility border on the facile for Boche, rini and his Cello Concerto No 2 in D. Nothing deterred, Rostropovich pelted away, answering *plaisanterie* with panache, working mischief with the light violin accompaniments, and clothing the finale in peasant rags for which it seemed at times not a little unprepared.

Hilary Finch

ECO/Ledger Barbican

It must be all too easy for a performance of Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* to sound dull, as this one frankly did. Much of the music, in any case, is slow and quiet, restrained in every way, and the mellowness of today's woodwind instruments removes a degree of vividness from the orchestral colours that Berlioz would have heard in 1854. For a conductor like Philip Ledger such things were an irresistible temptation to play as safely as he would have to in King's College chapel.

But Berlioz, I am sure, could have invested his work with more excitement. This music does have its eccentric moments, restraint or no restraint, and indeed its apparent intention to turn the story of the flight from Egypt into a cosy fairy-tale seems perverse. Fortunately the solo singers in this performance were willing to take interpretative decisions; had they not been only the violent episode where Herod decides to slay the innocents would have held much interest.

Mary (Fiona Kimm) here sounded a trifle strained, though Joseph (William Shimmell) was both commanding

Theatre

Dickens relentlessly relevant

Douglas Jeffery

Hard Times Orange Tree

Typically imaginative, this Richmond studio-theatre (have you never been to it? why not?) is marking the festive season not with the reassuring *A Christmas Carol* but with Dickens's relentlessly relevant study of rigid economic principles, calls to strike, oppressed women, and self-made men making the worst masters.

Stephen Jeffreys's adaptation takes very few liberties that I could see: all the most startling lines are genuine, as when the rolling stone cad James Harthouse announces his new career in the world of "the hard fact men, statisticians", or when little Sissy Jupe, asked at Gradgrind's school if England is a prosperous nation, answers that she cannot know unless she knows who has got the money.

A cast of four double the parts (three or four apiece) with complete clarity. Sam Walters's set is just a grey acting square, with the occasional indulgence of a bench or a couple of chairs for Bounderby's breakfast-time chats with Mrs Sparsit. Movement and tempo alone conjure up the anarchy of Stearns's circus, or Sparsit's bedraggled scamper "through bush, through briar" to spy on



Startling switches: David Timson, Kate Spiro

Harthouse's flirtation with Louisa. And the cast's neat, unforced style makes the show as little heavy going as possible, but I confess I still found a lot of it very heavy. Dickens may have been a playwright *mangé* but, in this Victorian dramatic world, mere obviousness of where a scene is going (such as Bounderby's proposal to Louisa, or Harthouse's attraction to her) is no reason not to make a meal of it; and the hard-wringing pathos of Stephen's death scene taxes Frank Moore's truthful playing to the utmost, however thrilling the mine-shaft rescue is when, staged with just four people, a floor and a rope.

The acting, in fact, provides most of the pleasures. David Timson switches from the Vincent Crummies of the circus to the mill magnate, thumbs stuck in self-important waistcoat pockets as he embroiders the tale about his childhood in the gutter. Mr Moore reappears as a Gradgrind whose repressiveness is more unanswerable for its Shakespearean dignity.

Caroline John (Sissy) plays the egregious Sparsit with sharp-eyed relish, disastously producing Bounderby's loving old mother as a snoop's lawful prize; and Kate Spiro exchanges that lady's quavering age in a moment for the loving pain of Louisa, devotedly pursuing her worthless brother or standing rigid with revulsion as she makes a "good" marriage.

Anthony Masters

Dance

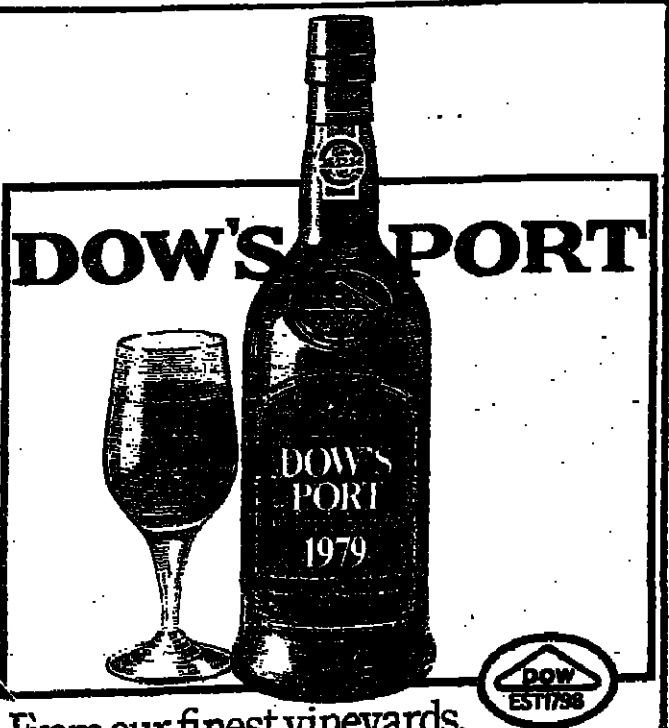
Janet Smith The Place

Janet Smith's own recent creation, which I saw at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, a few days ago, is inspired by souvenirs of her company's far eastern tour earlier this year. Called *Signs of Another Sun*, it is strong on atmosphere and colour (design by Jan Blake, based on Indonesian cloths), less strong in dance interest. In fairness, I must add that another recent work, *Con Spirito*, had to be omitted from that programme because of a dancer's injury; set to Tchaikovsky, that almost certainly redressed the balance.

Her determination to achieve balance and variety in her programme was given a practical demonstration at The Place at the weekend when she presented a programme including a new work commissioned from Robert North and four short pieces by members of the company.

North's contribution, *Miniatures*, is set to Stravinsky's two suites for small orchestra and Eight Instrument Miniatures. The lively, often comic, dances, like the designs by Andrew Storer (officially based on motifs from Matisse, but sometimes looking more like Picasso's *Parade* costumes), are somewhat in the manner of North's *Priapanki* for Ballet Rambert. They show off the dancers' brightness and skill attractively.

John Percival



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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Strengthening the links between pay and jobs

Pushed assiduously into the political limelight by the Chancellor, the "real wage" debate is rapidly achieving the kind of prominence accorded to monetarism a decade ago. Mr Nigel Lawson is now hatching a Treasury paper designed to demonstrate the links between pay and jobs.

Just as assiduously, his critics have been turning out econometric demonstrations of their suspicion that - without a change in other policies - a pay slowdown might simply drive Britain into recession.

Mr Lawson's version of the argument that "Britain can price itself back to work" is to claim that a standstill in real wages would yield jobs without tears. His first difficulty is that real wages are not what people actually receive in their pay packets - thus his exhortations have to be translated into terms of common or garden "nominal" wages. Now these do not want to see cut, or even frozen - merely cease to rise faster than prices. Real incomes could still rise through tax cuts, he argues. And if wages had remained constant in "real terms", over the past three years, instead of rising by 9 per cent more than prices, Mr Lawson has claimed there would be one and a half million more jobs in Britain.

Well, let us explore this claim with the aid of the Treasury's own forecast for the coming year. This shows pay rising 7 per cent and prices 4½ per cent - a further considerable rise in "real wages". Suppose instead pay was to rise only 4½ per cent. This would not, please note, automatically produce a real wage standstill. Industry's costs would be lower, so (other things, as they say, being equal) price inflation would then turn out to be less than 4½ per cent.

However, it would not drop by the same 2½ percentage points, because non-labour costs would be unchanged (and firms might widen profit margins). So "real wages" would rise by less than the Treasury's forecast. This would mean a smaller rise in consumer spending - merely adding, Mr Lawson's critics say, to the chronic shortage of effective demand in Britain, and so depressing rather than stimulating employment.

There would be some counter-effects on demand. The squeeze on consumer spending would be reduced by the fall in inflation, because this seems to encourage people to spend more and save less of their incomes. Meanwhile, higher profits might stimulate investment and also increase dividend income, part of which would trickle its way back into consumer spending.

By themselves, however, these look pretty inadequate compensation. But - crucially - the fall in the price of labour, relative to the price of capital, should over time cause businesses to use more people. Although this might outweigh the original boost to investment from higher profits it would increase employment. A number of studies of the British economy suggest that a one per cent difference in the price of labour tends to change demand for it by 0.5 per cent or so. (The Treasury's rule-of-thumb figure - about 0.75 per cent - produces Mr Lawson's calculation that a 9 per cent rise in real wages has cost Britain one and a half million jobs.)

In political debate, Mr Lawson tends to skate over the time it would take for this effect to show through. It would not show up in a bigger jobs total if the economy was meanwhile growing more slowly. The National Institute, for example, has just produced simulations for the British economy of the effect of a real wage slowdown: taking the full five years to 1989, these end up with lower inflation - but output still slightly lower than in its "base" forecast.

Meanwhile, the EEC Commission has

produced simulations for all four major members suggesting that slower wage growth damps down output and employment in the first year - but leads to higher production and more jobs in most countries by the second and subsequent years.

Such differences often tell us more about models (and modellers) than about economic reality. But all the results can be improved by considering a series of side-effects of slower wage growth we have not touched on yet. During that first, depressed stage, the demand for money is likely to be lower too. How does the Government react?

Both the National Institute and the EEC Commission start by assuming it is indifferent to this. So interest rates either rise, in real terms, as inflation falls (as in the EEC simulations) or at least fall no faster than inflation (as in the National Institute's). In both the exchange rate, therefore strengthens - which means a loss of competitiveness and hence of export demand, as well as the possible loss of a stimulus to investment from lower interest rates.

Suppose, instead, that the Government takes steps to see that monetary growth remains unchanged when wage inflation slows down. Then the exchange rate, or real interest rates, or perhaps both, will be lower - and real demand higher.

There are a number of different ways of achieving this general intention. The National Institute simulates a looser budgetary policy, which it believes should follow lower inflation. The EEC, with greater sophistication, sets the aim of a constant rate of growth of nominal national income, and then explores different ways of achieving it through higher public spending, lower taxes or a cut in interest rates. The results are unequivocally favourable. Employment and output are stimulated, inflation reduced.

Now the really delicate question: what would a Thatcher government do? First, lower inflation might reduce the public sector borrowing requirement, making room for tax cuts; a slowdown in public sector costs might even (hush) make room for higher public investment within its spending limits. But such a bonus would be modest, because a wage slowdown in Britain today could be expected to narrow the gap between high private and lower public wage increases (thus cutting tax revenue more than expenditure).

A bigger difficulty is that the Government's PSBR target is fixed as a proportion of nominal national income. So if this shows signs of growing more slowly, doesn't doctrine dictate that the PSBR should be cut?

Breathes again. Even the first, 1980 version of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy allowed for some use of budget "stabilizers" in the face of threatened recession. But the crucial point is that nominal national income need not grow more slowly if the Government took steps to see the money supply continued to grow as fast as forecast. If it looked as if it was going to undershoot its target because of a wage slowdown, the Government could without heresy act to stimulate the demand for money.

However, it must be said that a government that urged wage restraint to lower inflation and increase employment, while stimulating monetary growth to prop up demand, would not be singing quite the tune that we heard from ministers in 1979. But the existing strategy is plainly to get interest rates down as far as pre-set monetary targets permit. And whether or not policy is changed or changing is less interesting than the fact that slower "real wage" growth supported by monetary and fiscal policies would be unquestionably favourable to Britain's prospects.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

THE GILT-EDGED MARKET

End in sight to 10% yield barrier

Geoffrey Finn

Given the extremely favourable domestic financial and economic background, plus the encouraging downward trend in US interest rates, the gilt-edged market might have been expected to have made much greater progress than has actually been achieved.

Generally speaking, 1984, although an active year as far as gilt turnover is concerned, has been most uninspiring from the point of view of performance. Prices and yields have moved within a relatively narrow range and are ending the year roughly where they began. The FT Government Securities Index hit its 1984 high of 83.77 as early as January 9, a level which has not been matched since, although it came close when it limbed to 83.43 on November 23.

In between these two dates the low for the year of 75.72 was seen on July 30 after the weakness of the pound and oil price fears, not to mention a thoroughly disappointing set of June money supply figures, had necessitated the short sharp hike in base rates from 9% to 12 per cent. The story since that unfortunate episode has been one of slow convalescence. Base rates have been gently nursed down again to the prevailing level of 9% per cent, but with the pound managing to remain

nervously steady in the face of the persistently buoyant dollar.

Despite the relatively comforting British monetary and fiscal background and the easier trend in US money rates, the long-dated yield basis, as measured by the FT Actuaries 25-year high-coupon index, has found great difficulty in falling below the 10 per cent barrier. The only time it has ever managed to do so was when it dropped, for one day only, to 9.98 per cent last January 9.

The nearest it has achieved recently was 10.02 per cent on November 13 but, as on other occasions this year, this once again proved a resistance level. However, it now seems increasingly likely that the barrier will be pierced and that the long end of the gilt-edged market will enjoy a long overdue bull phase.

There are still some influential voices in New York predicting higher bond yields at some stage in 1985, but these are becoming more and more isolated from the main body of informed opinion. The consensus appears to be shifting to a more positive stance as the US economy shows increasing

signs of slowing down. One of the key external indicators for the gilt-edged market to focus upon will be the level of US industrial output over the next few months.

The other crucial area as far as the United States is concerned will be the degree of progress in getting the budget deficit reduced, bearing in mind that the recently announced tax reform package is explicitly designed to have a "neutral" impact on revenue. With US monetary growth proceeding at a moderate pace and a low inflation rate, it seems justifiable to be thinking in terms of further easing by the Fed and, consequently, the prospect of lower US interest rates in the near future. The implications for gilts should be decidedly bullish.

Turning to domestic factors, one of the main worries in an otherwise satisfactory monetary picture is the unexpected high prevailing level of loan demand and the likelihood of further expansion in the months ahead. So far much of the increased borrowing has been by the personal sector. However, there is now a strong possibility that

Currys' hope of independence hinges on High Court ruling

By William Kay, City Editor

The High Court will today effectively decide the fate of Currys, the electrical retailing group with more than 570 shops throughout the country. Before an emergency hearing, hastily convened over the weekend, the judge will be asked to lift an injunction preventing Dixon's, Currys' high street rival, from declaring its £248 million takeover bid unconditional, and so claiming victory in the bitter two-month struggle.

On Friday night, Currys won an injunction in dramatic style, with the help of the Scottish Amicable, the insurance group which has what may prove to be a vital holding of 320,994 Currys shares. It amounts to only 0.7 per cent of Currys' total equity capital, but at the time of the Friday night hearing

it spanned the difference between success and failure for Dixon's.

The controversy began on Thursday, when Mr Stanley Kalms, the chairman of Dixon's, appeared to claim victory while just short of winning the necessary 50 per cent of Currys' shares. That claim was quickly modified, as the Currys share price rose strongly above the level of Dixon's offer, leading some institutional shareholders to have second thoughts.

At 12.15 on Friday afternoon, Dixon's had acceptances for 50.6 per cent of Currys' shares, and formally declared the bid unconditional, a move which often prompts wavering shareholders to throw in the towel.

But, in some intense back-

stairs lobbying, Currys persuaded Scottish Amicable to reconsider. Its 0.7 per cent would take Dixon's below 50 per cent again, denying them victory. Dixon's merchant bank, Morgan Grenfell, went into the market on Friday afternoon and took its client's holding in Currys up to 51.44 per cent. But by then Currys and Scottish Amicable had decided to invoke the courts.

Yesterday, Morgan Grenfell's head office in the City was opened for a special meeting with Dixon's senior executives. S. G. Warburg, the merchant bank advising Currys, accepted that today's 10.30am hearing will be vital. The bank is also asking the Takeover Panel to order Dixon's to send back all acceptances received after 12.15

pm on Friday, on the grounds that they are invalid.

Whether the Takeover Panel will comply with that request will depend heavily on the outcome of the court hearing. It was expected that dealings in Currys shares would be suspended on the stock market while the legal dispute was resolved.

A spokesman for S. G. Warburg said: "The bid can go on until December 16, and providing the Takeover Panel and the High Court create the situation in which shareholders can think about things, the outcome is far from certain."

Both the court ruling and the Warburg tactics are bound to prove controversial. It is likely that more such cases will go to law.

Chancellor warned of fall in oil revenue

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has been warned that he can no longer rely on increasing North Sea oil revenues to cover any overshoot in public spending. The warning comes from the leading analyst in the oil sector, Wood Mackenzie adds: "The tax revenue generated by the North Sea has become increasingly significant in the Government's financial planning. While forecasting future oil revenues is fraught with difficulties as the outcome is dependent on a wide range of variables, official forecasts have tended to be conservative."

Thus the tax take for the North Sea has been historically proved to be something of a hidden contingency for providing the Chancellor with a degree of flexibility.

The stockbroker adds that while its own forecasts have tended to be on the low side,

Benefit to Britain from North Sea oil and gas											
	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Oil production (million b/d)	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6
Gas production (billion cu ft)	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.6
Gross value	22.1	23.1	21.8	21.7	22.0	22.3	24.2	23.9	22.7	21.1	20.1
Related imports	(1.6)	(1.8)	(2.3)	(2.5)	(2.3)	(1.9)	(1.5)	(1.9)	(1.9)	(2.1)	(1.9)
Foreign interest, profits, dividends and capital	(3.7)	(3.8)	(1.2)	(1.2)	(3.0)	(4.4)	(5.8)	(5.8)	(5.5)	(4.9)	(4.3)
Total benefit	16.8	17.7	18.3	18.0	17.7	17.0	16.5	16.2	15.3	14.3	13.5

Source: Wood Mackenzie

they have been generally higher than the Government's. Its forecasts for 1984-85 and 1985-86 are almost identical to the Chancellor's.

Wood Mackenzie's says: "With unemployment still rising, the Chancellor is apparently having to take risks in order to hit his PSBR targets and yet provide the maximum possible fiscal stimulus. If public spending overshoots, oil revenues are unlikely to provide a buffer as they have in the past."

It adds that the cost of

related imports must be deducted from the gross revenue from oil and gas and provision must be made for the movement of capital into and out of the country to finance different fields and for the remittance of profit and interest abroad.

The three main areas to benefit from North Sea oil and gas in the United Kingdom have been home industry, where 70 per cent of the value of contracts for work in the North Sea have been placed, British oil company profits, which have allowed them to

expand and invest overseas, and Government revenue.

Royalty payments, Advance Petroleum Revenue Tax and Petroleum Revenue Tax account for 70 per cent of income from the North Sea, with estimates that it will fall to between 60 and 65 per cent in the rest of the 1980s.

Wood Mackenzie adds: "In a sense it is the declining relative contribution to the UK economy which will be felt more acutely than the fall-off production itself and the threat to UK self-sufficiency."

Barkshire to retire as Liffe chief

By Michael Prest

Mr John Barkshire, the man widely credited with being the driving force behind the creation two years ago of the London International Financial Futures Exchange, will not stand for re-election as chairman at Liffe's annual meeting next March 18.

Delicate politicking is now under way to find a successor. It is understood the candidate will almost certainly be one of Liffe's 19 board members. One name to emerge early is that of Mr Brian Williamson, the present chairman of the membership and rules committee and a board member of Gerrat & National, the discount house.

Mr Barkshire's departure comes as Liffe is considering a separate division for market managers and evaluating options on its futures contracts. Mutual offset agreements are also being investigated. There is the possibility of a link with the London Gold Futures Exchange, which is urgently studying its own future.

Charles Fulton Group, one of London's leading money brokers, is linking with Cantor Fitzgerald Securities Corporation of the US, first to broke US government securities in London and then to form a jointly-owned inter-dealer broker in the reformed gilt-edged market in 1986.

To run the IBD, Fulton has recruited Mr Bill Foy, a Scot who built up the gilt department for Bicknacre & Moore, the stockbrokers. Cantor will have a majority stake in the US bonds operation, while Mr Fulton will be the senior partner in the IBD.

Waddington reports anger Maxwell

By Our City Staff

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of British Printing and Communication Corporation, said yesterday he will complain to the Takeover Panel over the profit forecast he alleges was made by John Waddington, the games and package group, and published in the Sunday papers yesterday.

BPPC has made a £44 million cash offer for Waddington, which has leaked advance details of its defence document, due to be published tomorrow by Kleinwort Benson.

Waddington is expected to announce half-yearly profits of close to £3 million, and one of yesterday's newspapers reported that the "forecast for the full year is just under £6 million". But the Waddington camp insisted yesterday that it had not made a forecast.

Mr Maxwell is also fuming at

suggestions that the Waddington document will attack BPPC's borrowings. "None of this has anything to do with a defence to a cash offer."

"This is Kleinwort's black propaganda machine. The Waddington share price has come back from 550p to 505p, compared with our offer of 500p, indicating that people understand that ours is a pretty good offer," Mr Maxwell added.

Some commentators calculated that the new move would cost the Midland £21 million based on an average of £36 a year in charges paid by about 380,000 customers.

A Midland spokesman said the calculation did not take into account important variables, about 100,000 new customers the bank expects of attract. Moreover, most of the customers who would no longer be paying charges were likely to be those already paying well below the £36 average. The loss to the Bank, would therefore, be small, he said.

Turkish toll sell-off

The Turks have caught the privatization bug. Today, the Turkish government is to sell revenue shares in the Bosphorus Bridge, at Istanbul. The shares will give holders the right to income from the bridge tolls, which are estimated at 12 billion Turkish lire next year, equal to £23.2 million.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Friday's close and change on week
FT-SE 100 Index: 1181.3 up 22.5
FT Index: 917.3 up 7.0
FT Gilt: 83.0 up 0.06
FT All Share: up 10.54
Bourses: 22,043, down 1,737
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 105.88 up 1.25
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1,184.94 down 31.36
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 1,428.30
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1128.10 up 31.06

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9½-9¾
Finance houses base rate 10½
Discount market loans week fixed 9½
3 month interbank 9½-9¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9¾
3 month DM 5½-5¾
3 month FRF 10½-10¾
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.50-11.25
Fed funds 8½
Treasury long bond 10½-10¾
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average Index: 1,428.30
October 3 to November 8, 1984, inclusive: 10.618 per cent.

Midland denies free banking will cost £20m

Midland Bank has strongly denied suggestions that its new free banking service for personal accounts which stay in credit will cost more than £20 million in lost income. It would cost £2 million in the first year, as originally stated, the bank said.

British TELECOM British Telecommunications plc Offer for Sale

Kleinwort, Benson Limited, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, announces that applications from the public for shares will be allocated on the following basis:-

Number of shares applied for:

200-400 shares
800 shares
1,200 shares
1,600-100,000 shares

Number of shares being allocated:

In full
500 shares
600 shares
800 shares

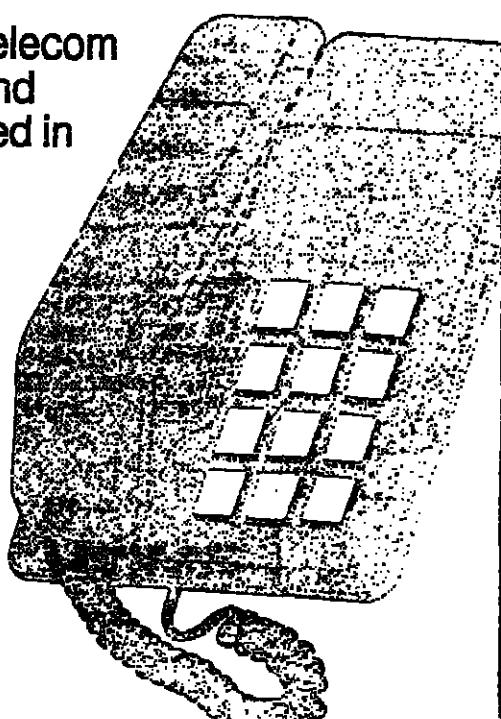
No allocation will be made to applicants for over 100,000 shares, and cheques submitted with these applications will not be presented.

Preferential applications from British Telecom employees and pensioners for up to and including 20,000 shares will be allocated in full. Applicants for higher numbers will receive 20,000 shares each.


A considerable number of multiple applications have been rejected.

Letters of Acceptance and, where relevant, return cheques will be posted on Monday 10th December, 1984, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Dealings prior to receipt of Letters of Acceptance will be at the seller's risk.



make, in fact only BP have the know-how.
But then you'd expect us to go further
than anyone else to make a better product.
Visco-Nova. You can depend on it.

 **Britain at its best.**

CRICKET: INDIAN GAMBLE WITH INEXPERIENCED LEG-SPINNER PAYS HANDSOME DIVIDENDS

Gloom over England's plight relieved only by century from Gating

From Richard Streeton
Bombay

Only England's last three wickets stand between India and a thoroughly deserved victory in the first Test match here. Mike Gatting broke through a personal mental barrier with a valiant first Test hundred at his 54th attempt, but otherwise England tottered helplessly against the Indian spinners on a wearing pitch. Going in again on Saturday evening, 270 runs behind, they were 228 for seven wickets by yesterday's close. With some reluctance, it has to be mentioned that three of England's wickets have fallen to questionable decisions by the umpires. Robinson on Saturday could clearly be seen from the stands to have edged the ball into his pads when he was given out leg before. Gower and Cowdrey yesterday were given out on appeal to catches at silly point, when television replays suggest the ball came off their pads. My own view of these two dismissals was masked by the batsman's bodies.

Nothing, though, can take away the basic truth that England lost this match with their breakdown in the first innings last Wednesday and the ineffective way their bowlers have performed. India look the better equipped side and their gamble in picking the inexperienced leg-spinner Sivaramakrishnan has paid handsome dividends. The only bowler consistently to turn the ball from the start, Sivaramakrishnan has taken nine wickets in the match. It was three years and a day and 31 Test matches ago that India achieved their last test match win, when they beat Keith Fletcher's England side on the same ground. Once again the towering concrete stands in the Wankhede Stadium reverberated with ceaseless roars and firecrackers as England stumbled to their downfall. It took resolution and skill to thwart the Indian attack amid the boisterous pitch that had developed at both ends where the bowlers followed through. Gavaskar

switched his spinners about from end to end and when Gower and Lamb fell in successive overs it could only be a matter of time as to how long the match would last. The pitch, though helping wrist spin, has not deteriorated badly yet and England cannot really blame the condition. It was on Saturday that any optimistic notions England still held of retrieving anything from this match were finally dispelled, when they were unable to dismiss either Shastri or Kirmani until after tea. Their partnership of 235 exceeded the previous Indian seventh-wicket record in Tests against any country, the 186 put on by D. N. Sardesai and E. D. Solkar against West Indies at Bridgetown in 1970-71. It has only been exceeded once by an Indian pair for any wicket against England.

Kirmani pulled Pocock high into the air and Lamb on the mid-wicket fence hardly had to move to take the catch and then Shastri did the same and Lamb this time had to run forward and take the ball low as he tumbled over. Lamb missed another high catch offered by Yadav in Pocock's next over, but it did not matter as Gavaskar gave England 50 minutes' batting and Robinson, receiving his second poor decision in this game, was out before the close.

Gatting and Fowler put on 84 in 33 overs before lunch yesterday and the bowlers were never allowed to dominate them. Sivaramakrishnan became terribly upset when he had two leg before appeals against Fowler turned down and Gavaskar spoke to him. The young bowler made the breakthrough India needed in his next over when a ball turned prodigiously to beat Fowler. For three hours and a half Fowler had fought gamely. Sivaramakrishnan and Shastri each had five close fieldsmen and Gower never inspired confidence as he used his pads more than once before Gavaskar, sprawling at silly point, clutched a low rebound and Gower was given out. In



Pulling his weight: Gatting on his way to hundred

Sivaramakrishnan's next over Gatting on-drove four to pass 81, his previous highest test score made against New Zealand at Lords in 1983. In the same over, though, Lamb was utterly beaten as he played forward, lifted his foot momentarily and Kirmani made a brilliant stumping. Gavaskar swept and drove from against Sivaramakrishnan in the same over to reach 98, swept Shastri for a single and finally reached his hundred when he leaned back and hammered a four against Sivaramakrishnan through extra cover. Among recognized batsmen only five players have needed more than 100 minutes to make a maiden Test hundred. Two south Africans, Dave Nourse and Trevor Goddard, lead the list, needing 64

and 62 innings to get there, others ahead of Gatting are Imtihan Alam (61), Rhodes (59) and Vic Pollard, of New Zealand (56). Bobby Simpson of Australia was playing his 52nd Test innings when he marked his first hundred with 311 against England at Old Trafford in 1964. Cowdrey had hung on for an hour before his unsatisfactory dismissal. Gatting greeted Sivaramakrishnan's switch to the opposite end with a cover drive for his 21st four, but opened his shoulders to the next ball and holed out at long-off. Ellison, who, in his stay of 31 minutes, clearly did not know which way the ball was going to turn next, was caught at silly point from the fifth ball of the day's final over.

Martin Crowe sets up first win of tour

Wellington, Pakistan (Reuter) - New Zealand recorded their first win of the tour when they beat Pakistan, comfortably by 34 runs in the third one-day international here yesterday.

Put in to bat, New Zealand scored 187 for nine, in a match out to 36 overs a side, and restricted Pakistan to 153 for eight in reply. Pakistan now lead 2-1 in the four-match series.

Martin Crowe backed up a fine 67 with two wickets for 21 to win the match for his side. New Zealand lost six wickets for 31 runs as the off-spinner Taseem, ran through the middle order.

The hosts side were pleased into trouble, when Mohsin Raza in the opening over to Shering and Malik was bowled by Martin Crowe at 14. Crowe captured the wicket of Shering for 22, and when Chaudhury removed Mandoor for 14, Pakistan were reeling at 52 for four.

The innings never recovered, although Zaher gave his side a glimmer of hope with a fighting 42. When he fell to a catch by Jeff Crowe off the spin bowler Bencewell at 133, Pakistan had virtually lost the game. They required 54 in the last six overs and could manage only 20.

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NEW ZEALAND
J.G. Wright c Shering b Mohsin Raza 18
J.F. Pollard not out 18
M.D. Crowe b Mohsin Raza 67
J.L. Crowe not out 14
P.E. Shering b Taseem 22
S.L. Chaudhury c Bencewell b Taseem 14
D.A. Shering c Bencewell b Taseem 14
M.G. Bencewell not out 20
Total (36 overs) 187
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-22, 3-52, 4-133, 5-187, 6-187, 7-187, 8-187, 9-187.
BOWLING: Mohsin Raza 3-25-35, 2-25-35, 3-25-35, 4-25-35, 5-25-35, 6-25-35, 7-25-35, 8-25-35, 9-25-35.
New Zealand 187, Pakistan 153.

PAKISTAN
Mohsin Raza b Shering 18
J.F. Pollard not out 18
M.D. Crowe b Mohsin Raza 67
J.L. Crowe not out 14
P.E. Shering b Taseem 22
S.L. Chaudhury c Bencewell b Taseem 14
D.A. Shering c Bencewell b Taseem 14
M.G. Bencewell not out 20
Total (36 overs) 153
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-22, 3-52, 4-133, 5-187, 6-187, 7-187, 8-187, 9-187.
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FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-22, 3-52, 4-133, 5-187, 6-187, 7-187, 8-187, 9-187.
BOWLING: Mohsin Raza 3-25-35, 2-25-35, 3-25-35, 4-25-35, 5-25-35, 6-25-35, 7-25-35, 8-25-35, 9-25-35.
Pakistan 153, New Zealand 187.

NEW ZEALAND
J.G. Wright c Shering b Mohsin Raza 18
J.F. Pollard not out 18
M.D. Crowe b Mohsin Raza 67
J.L. Crowe not out 14
P.E. Shering b Taseem 22
S.L. Chaudhury c Bencewell b Taseem 14
D.A. Shering c Bencewell b Taseem 14
M.G. Bencewell not out 20
Total (36 overs) 187
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-22, 3-52, 4-133, 5-187, 6-187, 7-187, 8-187, 9-187.
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New Zealand 187, Pakistan 153.

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BOWLING: Mohsin Raza 3-25-35, 2-25-35, 3-25-35, 4-25-35, 5-25-35, 6-25-35, 7-25-35, 8-25-35, 9-25-35.
New Zealand 187, Pakistan 153.

State hold their own

Melbourne (Agencies) - Mike Taylor scored a determined century before last light stopped play 30 minutes from the scheduled close as Victoria ground out the runs against the West Indians on the third day of their four-day match.

Taylor's unbeaten 125 carried Victoria's total to 379 for four as the home side tried to match the tourists' massive first-innings 538 for seven declared. Taylor batted 215 minutes, faced 196 balls and hit 11 fours.

Dean Jones, the vice-captain and a Test prospect, staked his international claim with a fine 71 before being caught by stand-in wicket-keeper Payne. Off Harper.

More than 19,000 fans took advantage of the free admission.

WEST INDIANS: First innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Second innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Third innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Fourth innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Fifth innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Sixth innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Seventh innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Eighth innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Ninth innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

WEST INDIANS: Tenth innings
G.D. Gonsky b Taylor 78
D.L. Haynes b Taylor 108

TENNIS

Mrs Lloyd earns a thousand candles

Melbourne (Reuter) - Chris Lloyd passed another personal milestone yesterday when the last Parole Parole, the French teenager, in the third round of the Australian Open championships - the 1,000th singles win of her career. Mrs Lloyd, aged 18, did her best to postpone the victory celebrations, which included the presentation of a pink cake festooned with 1,000 candles.

Mrs Lloyd, who confessed she did not know what 1,000 candles meant, was a surprise winner of the world last year and just accumulated 6-1, 6-7, 6-2.

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Hennessy Very Special Cognac

1520-1521

University Appointments

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

Appointment of PRINCIPAL

The University Court is seeking a successor to Dr J. Steven Watson who will retire from the office of Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of St Andrews on 30th September 1985. In accordance with convention, the person appointed will be invited by the Court to act as Vice-Chancellor.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Dr M. J. Lowe, Secretary of the University, marking the envelope "PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE".

Persons interested in being considered for the post, or wishing to suggest individuals for consideration, should write, as soon as possible, in confidence, to the Chairman of the Selection Committee appointed by the University Court.

Robin Buchanan-Smith,
c/o The Secretary,
University of St Andrews,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ.

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

Department of Anatomy and Experimental Pathology

LECTURER

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in the Department of Anatomy and Experimental Pathology. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the teaching of anatomy and pathology and to carry out research in these fields.

RADIOBIOLOGY

The current research of the department includes studies of radiation-induced changes in the properties of macromolecules, the properties of radiation-induced free radicals, and the properties of radiation-induced changes in the properties of macromolecules.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Dr M. J. Lowe, Secretary of the University, marking the envelope "PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE".

Persons interested in being considered for the post, or wishing to suggest individuals for consideration, should write, as soon as possible, in confidence, to the Chairman of the Selection Committee appointed by the University Court.

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UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Director

Industrial Relations Research Unit

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the Industrial Relations Research Unit. The Unit was created by the ESRC in 1970 and is now a Designated Research Centre attached to the School of Industrial and Business Studies. The Unit has established a reputation for excellence in research in industrial relations and for its contribution to the understanding of the industrial relations system.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Dr M. J. Lowe, Secretary of the University, marking the envelope "PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE".

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University of St Andrews,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC STUDIES

TWO LECTURESHIPS IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Applications are invited from men and women for the above posts. Candidates should have a first class honours degree in accounting or a first class honours degree in a related discipline. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the teaching of accounting and financial management and to carry out research in these fields.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Dr M. J. Lowe, Secretary of the University, marking the envelope "PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE".

Persons interested in being considered for the post, or wishing to suggest individuals for consideration, should write, as soon as possible, in confidence, to the Chairman of the Selection Committee appointed by the University Court.

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University of St Andrews,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM

DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PHYSICS AND ELECTRONICS

LECTURESHIP IN ELECTRONICS

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in Electronics. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the teaching of electronics and to carry out research in this field.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Dr M. J. Lowe, Secretary of the University, marking the envelope "PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE".

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University of St Andrews,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ.

BRUNEL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

CHAIR IN SOCIOLOGY OR SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Applications are invited for the post of Chair in Sociology or Social Anthropology. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the teaching of sociology or social anthropology and to carry out research in these fields.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Dr M. J. Lowe, Secretary of the University, marking the envelope "PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE".

Persons interested in being considered for the post, or wishing to suggest individuals for consideration, should write, as soon as possible, in confidence, to the Chairman of the Selection Committee appointed by the University Court.

Robin Buchanan-Smith,
c/o The Secretary,
University of St Andrews,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Derby Chair of Anatomy

Applications are invited for the post of Derby Chair of Anatomy. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the teaching of anatomy and to carry out research in this field.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Dr M. J. Lowe, Secretary of the University, marking the envelope "PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE".

Persons interested in being considered for the post, or wishing to suggest individuals for consideration, should write, as soon as possible, in confidence, to the Chairman of the Selection Committee appointed by the University Court.

Robin Buchanan-Smith,
c/o The Secretary,
University of St Andrews,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DRAPERS PROFESSORSHIP OF FRENCH

Applications are invited for the post of Drapers Professorship of French. The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the teaching of French and to carry out research in this field.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from Dr M. J. Lowe, Secretary of the University, marking the envelope "PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE".

Persons interested in being considered for the post, or wishing to suggest individuals for consideration, should write, as soon as possible, in confidence, to the Chairman of the Selection Committee appointed by the University Court.

Robin Buchanan-Smith,
c/o The Secretary,
University of St Andrews,
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AJ.

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career choice

A fair cop for more

Ann Hills concludes her series on jobs in the police force

The appointment of Alison Halford as Merseyside's first female assistant chief constable drew predictable publicity last year. Yet Merseyside, with 501 women police officers (12 per cent of the total, above the national average) is examining why progress is slow. Female recruitment is running at 18 per cent of total intake.

The numbers of women officers returning after maternity leave is rising, but they are told to wait full-time or stay away.

Sergeant Sue Woolfenden, 32, a mother, and the wife of a urologist, chose to stay - and took advantage of maternity leave to make academic advances. She joined as a cadet at 16.

She said: "After six years, I was promoted to sergeant (one of 15 women out of 716 at this rank)."

When she was seven months pregnant, and embarked on A-levels, she applied for university sponsorship. She was given the go-ahead and became one of Merseyside's five officers a year who are "force scholars". She won a 2:1, taking a three-year degree course in politics, growing into a toddler, and gave her extra responsibilities prepared to invest £70,000 in her future.

There was no guarantee that she would return to become operational. She did, and is at present seconded to the personnel department, researching career development and the staff appraisal system.

She still gets calls from parents of children who meet when working in Tootsie. "I took an interest in following up such cases, not necessarily a good thing, but it is important to establish a relationship with them, whether you are in uniform or not."

John Harris's own career nearly illustrates progression. From his initial two years on the beat in Hertfordshire, he transferred to traffic patrol and was briefly in CID, before returning to uniform, in charge of several constables. In 1974 he took the special course at Bramshill, became an inspector in charge of a larger group in a Hertfordshire station, before returning for a spell to Bramshill in 1981 - this time "to prepare inspectors and chief inspectors for their first level of command".

Whatever the status of a new recruit, training continually backs operational duties. "At the Met's Hendon training college, which carers advisers visit during their three day familiarisation courses organised by the Home Office, there is a language laboratory. I've watched constables listening to tapes of a spastic girl, with speech defects. She was, in fact, appealing for help - not drunk or drugged, but handicapped."

While the general public may not realise the demands of training, Superintendent Harris suggests that they also miss the reality. "Television shows spectacular solutions. Murders are rarely solved by one person - those inquiries are usually hard work for a lot of people. I remember spending six weeks on house to house inquiries after a girl was shot. The suspect had already been tentatively identified. He had committed suicide."

The tediousness of routine, as well as the unexpectedness of day to day duties are both part of a policeman's lot. Graduate or not, the main difference is speed of promotion over the same ground.

As to John Harris, he joined in 1968 at 18 and as an inspector in 1971 was sent to Queen Mary College to read history and politics; like Sue Woolfenden a force scholar (she number between 60 and 70 a year, although other officers take degrees through private study).

His job is visiting universities, colleges and recruitment fairs. Advancement is less likely in the mounted branches and in some other specialist areas such as underwater search units - in Humberside, for instance, Brian Wilson, who runs that unit, is still a PC and likely to stay in that rank until he retires.

Another effect should be to fix the earlier deadlines in the candidates' minds.

PCAS handbooks will be in three sections: the first listing all polytechnic degree courses for which central application must be made; the second giving polytechnic non degree courses; applications for higher diploma courses will continue to be made direct to the polytechnics unless a candidate is also applying for a degree course, in which case both may go on the PCAS form; and the third giving for information purposes all other non university courses including those in Scotland. Schools will receive supplies of handbooks and forms in May 1985.

PCAS staff are sensitive to the special needs of mature and sometimes unconventionally qualified applicants: a significant source of recruitment to many Polytechnic courses, and the system will be designed to help these candidates. All polytechnics have formally joined PCAS.

Beryl Dixon

At last, a poly clearing house

Most higher education applications are made through one or several clearing houses. Universities and teacher training colleges have used this method for over 20 years: polytechnics, occupational therapy and some art colleges also have centralised admissions procedures which handle the administration for their institutions and limit the number of applications candidates may make.

The outstanding exception has been in polytechnics. Polytechnic applicants have had it all their own way, able, should they wish, to apply to all 30 simultaneously. With an annual 20% increase in polytechnic applications, admissions officers have had to process vast numbers of forms, not knowing until enrolment date in some cases, how many of these potential students will materialise. It was only a matter of time before the polytechnics formed a clearing house: indeed discussions were held in the 1970s. Now it has happened. Most applications for 1986 entry will be handled by PCAS.

PCAS is already in Cheltenham

near the offices of the Universities' Central Council on Admissions whose computer it will use. Currently consisting of the chief executive, Tony Higgins, former senior assistant registrar at Loughborough University, Mike Scott, previously Bristol Polytechnic's admissions officer, and two assistants, PCAS in January, increase its staff, and be ready for business next autumn. Every school and college will receive information on the new procedures. Seven thousand letters have already gone out. An exhaustive and exhausting programme of explanatory talks to groups of head teachers, careers officers and other interested parties has begun.

So how will PCAS work? Candidates will first obtain a handbook and application form. They will make up to four choices and return the form with a fee of £5 to Cheltenham for photocopying and distribution to the named polytechnics. Both the closing dates and the fee are in line with those of the 1986 UCEA system and the choice of similar dates should make it easier for schools, says Mike Scott, "to write all their references at once."

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Beryl Dixon

Educational

SCHOLARSHIP AND FELLOWSHIPS

ST. ANNES COLLEGE

OXFORD

JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The College invites applications from suitably qualified candidates, for the following Junior Research Fellowships all of which are tenable from 1st October 1985.

KATHLEEN BOURNE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
The Fellowship which is open to men and women, is for research in the field of French language, music and philosophy. Candidates must be graduates who are citizens of the United Kingdom or territories of the British Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland.

THE DRAPER'S COMPANY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
The Fellowship which is open to men and women, is for research in the field of Mathematics of the sciences and candidates must be in their second or third year of study. Candidates must be graduates of other Universities or Colleges.

THE JOANNA RANDALL-MACIVER JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
The Fellowship which is open to men and women, is for research in the field of French language, music and philosophy. Candidates must be graduates who are citizens of the United Kingdom or territories of the British Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland.

Further particulars of the Fellowship may be obtained from the College Secretary and Registrar, St. Anne's College, Oxford, OX2 0JF to whom applications should be sent to reach her not later than 21st January 1985.

1985 Beit Medical Fellowship

Applications are invited for a special Beit Medical Fellowship to conduct research which will be of potential benefit to the inhabitants of Zimbabwe, Malawi or Zambia. The appointment will be for up to 3 years, preferably held jointly between an established unit in the United Kingdom and an appropriate agency in one of the three countries named above. Selection will be made by the Advisory Board of the Beit Trust on the basis of the joint application. The salary will be in the range of a Clinical/Non-Clinical Lecturer, according to the age, previous experience and qualifications of the applicant. There will be the usual university superannuation contributions and benefits.

In conformity with the conditions under which the Fellowship was first established every Fellow shall be a man or woman of any nationality whatsoever who at the date of election shall have taken a degree in any faculty in any University approved by the Trustees in the U.K. or in any country which is or has been since 1910 a Dominion, Protectorate or Mandated Territory of the Crown. Elections to the Fellowship will only be made above the age of 35 years.

Applications from candidates must be received not later than 22nd March 1985. Elections will take place in May 1985 and the successful applicant will begin work on 1st October 1985.

Candidates must supply supporting statements for the programme from the Departments where they will work.

Forms of application may be obtained from Miss D. Billington, Beit Medical Fellowship, Nephrology Dept., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, EC1A 7BE.

1985 Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research

Notice is hereby given that an election of Junior Beit Fellows to begin work on 1st October 1985 will take place in May 1985. The Fellowships carry an initial value of £7,500 - £9,000 per annum, £1,125 London allowance, plus yearly increments for three years. There will be the usual university superannuation contributions and benefits. Persons eligible for Fellowship are: (a) those who have taken a degree in any faculty in any University approved by the Trustees in the U.K. or in any country which is or has been since 1910 a Dominion, Protectorate or Mandated Territory of the Crown. Elections to these fellowships are rarely made above the age of 35 years. Selection will be made by the Advisory Board of the Beit Trust on the basis of the joint application. The salary will be in the range of a Clinical/Non-Clinical Lecturer, according to the age, previous experience and qualifications of the applicant. There will be the usual university superannuation contributions and benefits.

Forms of application may be obtained from Miss D. Billington, Beit Medical Fellowship, Nephrology Dept., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, EC1A 7BE.

Further particulars of the Fellowship may be obtained from the College Secretary and Registrar, St. Anne's College, Oxford, OX2 0JF to whom applications should be sent to reach her not later than 21st January 1985.

Closing date: 28 January 1985.

LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD

THOMAS ROTHERAM JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN MATHEMATICS

The College invites applications from graduates of other universities, for the following Junior Research Fellowship which is tenable from 1st October 1985.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM
SCHOOLTEACHER FELLOWSHIPS
Associations are invited for election to a number of Schoolteacher Fellowships, to be offered by the University, during the academic year 1985-86. A Fellowship is tenable for one term: election will be made on the basis of an application form, which should be sent to the University, together with a letter of recommendation from a Headmaster or Headmistress, and a letter of recommendation from a member of the University's staff.

POLYTECHNICS
ITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
LECTURER GRADE II
A vacancy exists of a Lecturer Grade II in the Department of Geology. Applications are invited from graduates who have obtained a first class honours degree in Geology, or an equivalent qualification, and who have had teaching experience at an undergraduate level. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the teaching of geology and to carry out research in this field.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary, Old Ship's Hall, Old Ship's Hall, Durham, DH1 1TA, to whom completed applications should be sent to reach her not later than Monday, 21st January, 1985.

Preparatory and Public Schools
PENRHOS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS
Penrhos College, Colwyn Bay, North Wales. Independent Boarding and Day School, 300 girls. G.S.A. One major scholarship, value 100% current fees, and five entrance scholarships, value 50% current fees, will be awarded to girls entering in September, 1985. Examinations will be held on 31st January, 1985, for girls who will be under twelve, under thirteen and under fourteen on entry. Two music scholarships may be awarded to girls entering at any age.

Each term scholarships. Two science scholarships and one language scholarship may be awarded. These are tenable for up to seven years.

Miss T. Hughes, Secretary to the Headmaster, will be pleased to send you a copy of the school prospectus details of the examinations and entry forms on request.

BIOLOGY

The King's School, Canterbury

The Headship of the Department will become vacant in September 1985. Candidates able to guide and develop an already vigorous and successful department should apply to the Headmaster, giving the names of three referees. Salary by negotiation.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Registrar and Secretary, Old Ship's Hall, Old Ship's Hall, Durham, DH1 1TA, to whom completed applications should be sent to reach her not later than Monday, 21st January, 1985.

GERMAN INTENSIVE COURSES
University of London, Begins 1985. 12-14 weeks. O and A level. 17-21. December 22-25. Accommodation available. Anglo-German Society, 46 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

Tel: 01-222 0366

GILDING COURSES
Water Colouring, Intensive week-long courses from January to April. Work in water, oil, gouache, and acrylic. 12-14 weeks. O and A level. 17-21. December 22-25. Accommodation available. Anglo-German Society, 46 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

Tel: 01-222 0366

REVISION COURSES
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